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Algeria may resume ties with Egypt

ALGIERS, June 27, (Renter): President Chadli Benjedid has revived speculation that Algeria and Egypt may resume diplomatic ties after a nine-year break by saying his country has no special problems with Cairo. "Everyone knows that we have no particular problem with our sister country Egypt," Chadli said in an interview with the Lebanese weekly Al Hawadeth.

"The proof is that we have not opposed countries who maintained their relations with Egypt and we have made no protest against those who have renewed ties recently," he added.

Several Arab countries restored links with Egypt after a summit in Amman in November. Only four Arab states, including Algeria, have not yet restored diplomatic links with Cairo, severed after Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

In the interview, carried by the Algerian news agency APS, Chadli said he had met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak at an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa last month.

Bus-train collision

MIAMI, June 27, (AP): Twenty-six people, most of them youths, were killed and 80 were injured when a train and bus collided east of Havana, Cuba's state-run radio reported today.

More than half of those injured in the Saturday crash were in serious condition, according to a broadcast monitored in Miami, adding that most of those killed were between 12 and 19.

No cause was given for the accident, which occurred along the Barrera highway in the city of Guanaboaca, the destination of the bus from Megano beach.

Emergency phone

THE telephone number of the police emergency will be changed from 102 to 199 from July 15. But till Aug 1 police emergency can be called on both 102 and 199.

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پاکستان میں سنی تحریک کا اعلان کر دیا گیا
تکس چوری کرنے پر ۱۳ سال قید کی سزا ہوگی
عراق مخالف ڈراموں کا شائع پر قبضہ
مصر کے کویتی رہنماؤں سے مذاکرات
امریکہ کو نی ایل او سے مذاکرات کی پیشکش
مکتوب پاکستان اور یوسفیات

WEATHER

STILL there is a chance for dust with moderate to fresh north-westerly wind.

State of sea: rough
High water: 11.30 am, 11.30 pm
Low water: 4.00 am, 5.00 pm
Sunrise: 4.51 am
Sunset: 6.51 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 41°C 106°F
Ahmed: 39°C 102°F
Falka: 39°C 102°F

Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F
Ahmed: 21°C 69°F
Falka: 30°C 86°F

Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 41°C 106°F
Ahmed: 39°C 102°F
Falka: 40°C 104°F

Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 25 per cent
Ahmed: 25 per cent
Falka: 40 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 28 per cent
Ahmed: 34 per cent
Falka: 41 per cent

Murphy meets Amir and Crown Prince

Kuwait urges US to hold talks with PLO

KUWAIT urged the United States yesterday to open talks with the PLO and speed up efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed told reporters after talks with US envoy Richard Murphy. "We affirmed the importance of contact between the United States and the PLO in its capacity as representative of the Palestinian people."

"The uprising in the occupied Arab territories is inspired by the Palestinian people's will and their adherence to their national rights under the leadership of the PLO," he said.

Efforts

Washington refuses to talk to the PLO on the grounds it is a terrorist organisation, and its refusal to recognise the right of Israel to exist. Murphy, an Assistant Secretary of State, arrived in Kuwait on Sunday night as part of a Gulf tour.

"We clarified that efforts to solve the Middle East issue must be speeded up through the holding of an international conference before the problem gets worse," Sheikh Sabah added.

"I hereby urge the US Secretary of State to unequivocally declare US acceptance of the international conference under the auspices of the United Nations as a prelude to exposing the attitudes of all parties concerned."

Sheikh Sabah said Kuwait told Murphy of its absolute sup-



Murphy (second right) in talks with HH the Amir. On extreme left is US Ambassador to Kuwait Nathaniel Howell.

port for the Palestinian uprising, total Israeli withdrawal from occupied areas, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Washington supports the peace conference idea, although only as a prelude to direct Arab-Israeli talks. Israel opposes the longstanding Arab demand.

Asked if he had noticed a change in the US position, Sheikh Sabah said: "I believe they understand now the danger of the situation and the need for holding an international peace conference."

But he said special ties continued to bind the United States and Israel.

Murphy discussed the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle East conflict and bilateral ties with HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Murphy also met the Kuwaiti Defence Minister, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed.

Murphy relayed a message from US Vice-President George Bush to Sheikh Saad. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Sheikh Saad is scheduled to visit Washington July 12 to sign a \$1.9 billion arms deal involving the purchase of 40 F-18 jet fighters and other weapons.

President Reagan's administration has defended the deal against Congress reservations on the grounds Kuwait needs the weapons to defend itself against Iran.

Informed sources, who insisted that they not be identified, said Murphy briefed his hosts on the outcome of the superpower summit.

On the US stand toward the Iran-Iraq war and implementation of the Security Council resolution 598, Sheikh Sabah said there is nothing new in the American attitude in this respect.

Washington insists on the execution of all articles of the resolution, but some other com-

tries are still hesitant in its implementation in its current order of priority, he noted.

Sheikh Sabah pointed out that the GCC countries have unanimously passed a decision backing the resolution.

Initiative

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's media adviser, who recently made headlines with a controversial declaration on peace talks with Israel, also urged the United States in a statement published yesterday to initiate a dialogue with the organisation's movement.

In a statement published by the Al Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi Bassam Abu Sharif, urged Washington to "take tangible steps toward opening a dialogue with the PLO."

Failure to do so, he added, would reflect "its hostility toward the Palestinian people and their national aspirations."

"Direct contact between the PLO and the US administration is required now more than ever," he said.

He also repeated his controversial declaration that the PLO was willing to negotiate directly with Israel, under the auspices of an international conference.

Commenting on a signed paper he wrote about the Palestinian problem and containing the declaration on direct talks, he said it "was not presented to Washington as a document."

The PLO had previously rejected direct dealing with Israel.

A new dimension to warfare

7 Mideast states possess missiles

NEW YORK, June 27, (Reuters): Although Washington and Moscow have agreed to scrap their medium-range missiles, seven Middle East nations are stockpiling similar weapons which may alter warfare in the region. Time magazine reported yesterday.

Seven nations — Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Syria — have built up arsenals, although the weekly news magazine noted that the missiles were not nuclear armed, "with the highly probable exception of Israel."

The build-up began after the start of the three-year-old "war

of the cities" between Baghdad and Tehran, and threatens to increase bloodshed in conflicts within the volatile region.

"It is only a matter of time before these countries acquire significant inventories of accurate missiles armed with highly lethal warheads," Seth Carus, of the Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy, told Time.

Range

In the Gulf war, Iraq doubled the range of their Soviet-made Scud-B missiles to 360 miles (580 km) to permit them to reach

Tehran. At least 2,000 people died in more than 200 missile exchanges last winter.

US officials expressed surprise in March at intelligence reports that Saudi Arabia had secretly bought at least 10 Chinese CSS-2 missiles with ranges of 1,550 miles (2,500 km).

Washington also expressed "deep concern" last week over the prospect that Beijing would sell Syria M9 missiles with a range of 500 miles (800 km).

Israel has expressed alarm that hostile neighbours have begun stockpiling weapons which could reach Israeli cities.

Love still counts

DETROIT, June 27, (UPI): Old-fashioned love is the biggest incentive to marry for an overwhelming majority of Americans, according to a nationwide poll released today.

A resounding 92 per cent of those surveyed said "love" was the No. 1 reason Americans married. "Companionship" was the next most important motivation for 77 per cent of those surveyed.

The motivation of peer and parental pressure to marry was the least important (29th) listed by the men and women interviewed for the survey.

Money ranked a mere 26th on the list.

The survey was conducted by the marketing firm of R.H. Bruskin and Associates for Korbel Champagne Cellars.

The nationwide poll of 1,025 people, representing all 50 states, was used to determine the emotional issues and social pressures facing men and women considering marriage.

Those polled were representative of three groups: single and not ever married, single and intending to marry in next five years and those who had been married for at least five years.

Khomeini appears in public

ATHENS, June 27, (UPI): Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini made a public appearance yesterday in a north Tehran suburb, where he met a group of Revolutionary Guards and officials during religious ceremonies, Tehran Radio said.

The public appearance was his second since reports in Washington on June 10, attributed to the Central Intelligence Agency, said Khomeini was dying of prostate cancer that had spread to his liver.

The reports, not confirmed by other sources, said the Ayatollah had two to five months to live.

Shatilla camp falls to Arafat's opponents

BEIRUT, June 27, (Agencies): Palestinian dissidents overran Beirut's Shatilla refugee camp today in a 13-hour battle, capturing at least 140 of Yasser Arafat's loyalists after pounding the shantytown with a fierce artillery barrage, police reported.

But 60 other Arafat loyalists, including 45 men believed to be wounded, remained holed up in the camp's only bomb shelter and the nearby hospital, virtually wrecked in the shelling, police reported.

The fall of Shatilla was a serious setback for Arafat's Fatah faction, which has been fighting Col Saeed Mousa's radical Fatah-uprising faction since May 1 for control of Shatilla and the Bourj Al Barajneh camps.

At the height of today's barrage, 25 shells a minute were hitting Shatilla, already virtually devastated from years of fighting, police said.

Bomb

The fighting stopped when Arafat's men began surrendering. But police said at least seven people were killed and 11 wounded today.

That raised the casualty toll since May 1 to at least 127 killed and 527 wounded.

In the southern port city of Sidon, three Palestinian com-

mandos were killed and six wounded when a car bomb exploded near a Fatah office in the Mich Mich refugee camp today, police reported.

Radio stations said the bombing was an attempt to assassinate commander leader Munir Madbah, who commands Fatah's Force 17 security apparatus in Sidon.

Today's blast came a day after a booby-trap bomb in a car belonging to commander leader Mohammed Mrad exploded outside his home in Sidon's Ein Al Hilweh camp, killing his two sons, Ali, 13, and Mazen, 6.

Surrendered

In the Beirut battles, Arafat's men, hammered by shelling for two weeks, stumbled out of the rubble of Shatilla's cement block shanties with their hands on their heads after Mousa's commandos stormed in behind a ferocious artillery barrage.

Police said Syrian Army officers and Libyan observers took charge of the men who surrendered, while negotiations continued for the surrender of the other 60.

Four Libyan mediators headed by Maj. Salim Farjani, shuttled between the bomb shelter and Mousa's headquarters. "We're here to stop the bloodletting," Farjani said.

Arabs claim soldiers injected them

Israeli troops rampage through refugee camp

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, June 27, (Agencies): Palestinians accused Israeli soldiers today of using hypodermic syringes to intimidate residents of a refugee camp on the occupied West Bank, but the Army denied the allegations.

In East Jerusalem, police arrested eight Palestinians on suspicion of throwing stones. Some 1,500 troops and police were deployed in the city against protests called by underground leaders of a six-month uprising.

Leaders of the uprising against Israeli military rule in the occupied areas have called for

marches and protests against the anniversary tomorrow of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem after the 1967 Middle East war.

Residents of Al Amari refugee camp in the West Bank accused the soldiers of rampaging through the camp on Friday night, destroying property and beating Palestinians without provocation.

Arrested

They said soldiers, one carrying a black attaché case, arrested Nader Al Malhi, 24, and Midhat Jaber, 19, and handcuffed them, covered their eyes and gave each a shot in the right arm with

hypodermic needles.

The Palestinians said they were not told what was in the syringes or why they were being injected. The Army denied the accusations and said it arrested one Palestinian who injected drugs himself.

Jerusalem Post correspondent Joel Greenberg, who reported the incident, said he saw Al Malhi at the camp shortly after the incident. "The injection marks were fresh, and he had seven cuts on the top of his arm," Greenberg said.

About 2,500 Palestinians from the occupied territories have

been detained without trial since the uprising began in December. At least 220 Palestinians and four Israelis have died.

Greenberg said he saw many smashed windows and damaged property in the camp.

Discharged

In a statement today, the Army replied: "A thorough investigation found that no syringe has ever been used by soldiers and that no resident had been injected."

Dr Rustum Namari, director of Magdass Hospital in Jerusalem, said doctors examined a man from Al Amari

on Saturday who said he had been injected, but could find nothing wrong with him. The man was discharged immediately, Namari said.

Mounted police galloped through East Jerusalem's main street, Salah Ad Din, forcing children on their way home from school to scatter and arresting a teenage girl who hurled stones at a policeman.

In the West Bank, a youth was shot in the eye by a rubber bullet during fierce clashes between students and soldiers at Dheish refugee camp, Palestinians said.

Tax-evaders in Pakistan face jail, says minister

ISLAMABAD, June 27, (Reuters): Tax-dodgers face up to 14 years in jail with hard labour in a Pakistan government crackdown which also includes confiscation of property and loss of all state benefits.

Finance and Planning Minister Mahbubul Haq announced the new measures today, a day after delivering Pakistan's 1988/89 budget in Parliament.

He said President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's government had to act swiftly against tax-dodgers because it had only two months before new elections.

Revise

He told a news conference income tax payers had up to two weeks to revise their tax assessments. "After that an example will be made of the tax-evaders."

Unveiling a Rs 186.39 billion (\$10.5 billion) budget for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, Haq said the government wanted to stem the economic rot it blamed on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Zia sacked Junejo's three-year-old administration on May 29, accusing it of inefficiency and not doing enough to stem corruption or promote Islam.

Haq said large bank loans written off by the Junejo government would be recovered. The budget is subject to approval by the National Assembly (lower house of parliament) which Zia promised to call elections for by Aug 26.

Tax-evaders also risk being banned from contesting elections, or receiving bank credits or import licences, Haq said.

Measures

"These are tough punitive measures. But for restoring the sanctity of the tax system, we had no other option," he said, adding that special courts would be set up to deal with tax evasion.

Officials said they expected the crackdown to yield an extra Rs 2.5 billion (\$140 million) in revenue.

The budget, which operates from July 1, shows a deficit of Rs 17.21 billion (\$967 million), up from last year's revised Rs 14.31 billion (\$804 million).

The defence budget has been increased by 6.7 per cent, revers-

ing the former government's plan to freeze it for one year and increase it after that by only three per cent a year.

The proposal was opposed by Zia on the grounds of the dangers Pakistan felt from neighbouring India and the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan.

Documents made available today put Pakistan's overall fiscal deficit for the year at Rs 41.38 billion (\$2.32 billion) to be met from borrowings and new taxes.

Benazir

New taxes will bring in Rs 20.39 billion (\$1.14 billion), Haq said.

In a statement in Karachi, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto denounced the budget as "a calculated attempt to increase the misery, hardship and suffering of the common man and appease the interests of the privileged class."

"The fact of the matter is that the regime is so totally bankrupt that there is no money for development," said Benazir, leader of the Pakistan People's Party.

Karachi stock exchange President Bashir Jammohammad warned that the sales tax and increased customs duties contained in yesterday's budget along with a one per cent increase in import surcharges could increase costs and inflation.

But in a statement he welcomed the government's efforts to deregulate the economy and curb unemployment.



Mahbubul Haq

No diplomatic immunity for drug smugglers

RIYADH, June 27, (AP): Diplomatic immunity will not shield drug smugglers from prosecution, and possibly the death penalty, in Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by a high-ranking Interior Ministry official published today.

Gen. Ibrahim Ali Al Maiman, director of the Interior Ministry's general administration of narcotics control, told the Al Riyadh newspaper that "diplomatic immunity will not prevent the strict implementation of the death penalty for anyone who is convicted of smuggling or trafficking narcotics in the kingdom."

The statement, also published by English-language dailies in the kingdom, has triggered surprise in diplomatic circles, with some expressing the view that it

could be a violation of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic immunity.

Saudi Arabia, trying to curb the spread of narcotics among its residents at the behest of King Fahd, instituted the death penalty for drug smugglers and traffickers last March.

Eight men, some of them Saudis, have already been executed according to the royal decree.

The kingdom takes pride in the effects of the new policy, which Al Maiman said has resulted in a 40 per cent decrease in drug smuggling. In his statements, the Interior Ministry official said that drug related crimes have dropped by 12 per cent.

Al Maiman has said on several occasions that Saudi Arabia is the least drug-affected country in the world.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

KD 250 must be won

COUPONS for Game No. 65 will appear from June 30 to July 6. Last date for sending entries is July 9 and numbers will be drawn from July 11.

PRIZES

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Four Corners | KD 25 |
| Top Line | KD 25 |
| First Full House | KD100 |
| Second Full House | KD 60 |
| Third Full House | KD 40 |

INTERNATIONAL

Soviet Communist Party opens crucial conference

MOSCOW, June 27, (Reuters): The Communist Party conference opened in Moscow today and promises rich debate on the Soviet political future, but its results are uncertain due to the nature of the system it is intended to reform.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev wants the conference to make his "perestroika" reforms irreversible by clamping limits on the powers of officials to impose their will on society.

The main question to be discussed at the conference is the restructuring of our political system, which is of course obsolete," said N. B. Bikennin, editor of the party journal Kommunist, declared at a news conference today.

But in an interview in the party newspaper Pravda, his deputy Otto Latsis said life had not improved for the average citizen since Gorbachev took office and it would be wrong to expect miracles from the conference. Both

men are delegates.

More than 1.5 million proposals have poured into the party's policy-making central committee in the month since it published a platform for change to be discussed at the conference, the first such party gathering in 47 years.

Hundreds of the proposals have been published in the press and, in a reflection of the progress of Gorbachev's "glasnost" (openness) drive, the vast majority call for changes more radical than those contained in the platform.

Yegor Yakovlev, editor of the outspoken weekly Moscow News and a delegate to the conference, said last week that he had seen in the proposals ideas he would not have heard sitting around a kitchen table with friends five years ago.

Other prominent pro-reform delegates have joined the public in calling for the removal of loo-

pholes in the platform which exclude some officials from limits of two five-year terms.

Gorbachev, who admitted with barely veiled pleasure last month that the Soviet Union had become "a vast debating society" is expected to call on the delegates to heed popular sentiment and tighten up the platform, known as "theses."

Powers
On the eve of the conference, the objective of Gorbachev's backers is emerging as a political system of strict separation of power between the executive, legislative and judiciary branches with the party in a largely supervisory role.

Letter after letter has called for guarantees to ensure that decision-making moves from the bottom up.

"I would like to define the essence of a law-based state in a short formula: State power must be subject to the law and not

stand above it," a professor of law said in a recent interview.

But leading party intellectuals admit they have no clear ideas yet about the future shape of Soviet political life.

Bikennin said the party was "in a search for democracy". He said reliable political guarantees were needed to prevent any recurrence of the "cult of personality" which was created by Joseph Stalin and thrived under the late Leonid Brezhnev.

The "theses" aim to achieve this by limiting the terms of senior officials up to the party leader and transferring decision-making power from the party to elected bodies such as the parliament, denounced by Bikennin as a rubber-stamp body.

They call for a ban on government ministers serving concurrently in the parliament with the aim of increasing the independence of the executive and legislative branches.



Rescuers looking for survivors at the site where a new Airbus crashed. (Reuters wirephoto)

Three people died, say French police

133 survive Airbus crash

MULHOUSE, France, June 27, (Reuters): One hundred and thirty-three passengers on board an Airbus miraculously survived when their brand new aircraft crashed and burst into flames at an air show on France's Swiss border on Sunday.

Local police headquarters, revising previous estimates downwards, said three people were killed when the Air France A-320 ploughed into a forest after losing height over Habsheim airport, 10 km from Mulhouse.

"Given the state of the plane, which was completely destroyed, it's amazing how few victims there were," a police spokesman said.

The body of a young girl had been identified by her parents. The identities of the two other victims were not known but some

survivors said they believed they were an elderly woman and a handicapped traveller.

Some 20 people were being treated for serious injuries in nearby hospitals, the police spokesman said.

The plane, carrying a group of journalists and special guests, took off from the international airport at Basle-Mulhouse and was due to circle the Alps before returning to France.

Suspension

Enthusiasts at the air show feared the worst when they saw the plane, one of an Airbus generation launched in April, skim the run-way and plough into trees beyond, sending a huge plume of black smoke billowing into the sky.

British Airways suspended service on its two Airbus A320

aircraft last night.

British Airways announced it was suspending both its A320s from routes between London's Gatwick airport and various European destinations, effective at Sunday midnight.

A spokeswoman said: "Following discussions with Airbus (the manufacturer) and the Civil Aviation Authority, we have decided to suspend the A320 services as a precautionary measure pending further information on the cause of Sunday's accident."

She said alternative planes had been arranged and she did not anticipate any cancellations.

A London spokesman for the manufacturer, the four-nation Airbus Industrie consortium in which Britain has a large stake, refused to comment on the possible effects for the consortium.

Seoul police to use electric cattle prods

SEOUL, June 27, (AP): South Korean police will be armed with electric cattle prods and a milder attitude to control violent demonstrations and ensure the safety of the Olympics in Seoul, police and local news reports said today.

Home Minister Lee Choon-Ku, head of the country's 135,000-member police forces, has ordered the measure as part of an extensive pre-games crackdown on criminals and radicals.

The former Army general urged riot troops to take "aggressive and offensive" attitudes and arrest all violent demonstrators, police said.

Newspapers said Lee was permitting police to use electric cattle prods, gas guns and riot clubs in controlling demonstrators.

South Korea has been hit by a wave of violent student protests and labour unrest in recent months. Police said today more than 960,000 people took part in about 4,300 demonstrations, mostly anti-government, so far this year, up 80 per cent from the same period last year.

Sihanouk agrees on peace blueprint

BANGKOK, June 27, (Reuters): Kampuchean guerrilla leaders have agreed on a blueprint for peace which they will present at talks with Vietnam next month, according to a statement broadcast today.

Guerrilla leader Norodom Sihanouk met his two partners in a UN-recognised Kampuchean coalition in Thailand before travelling to the Kampuchean border to accept credentials from foreign ambassadors.

Formula

A statement broadcast by his group's clandestine radio station, monitored in Bangkok, said Sihanouk, Khmer Rouge faction leader Khieu Samphan and the coalition's Prime Minister Son Sann drafted a common position for unofficial peace talks in Jakarta in late July.

Vietnam invaded Kampuchea in late 1978 to oust the pro-China Khmer Rouge government, held responsible by Hanoi and Western human rights groups for hundreds of thousands of kill-

ings. The Khmer Rouge remains the dominant group within Sihanouk's coalition.

The statement said Vietnam should attend the Jakarta meeting on the day it opened. Under a formula worked out between Indonesia and Vietnam, the three Kampuchean guerrilla factions and the Phnom Penh administration would meet first, and Vietnam, Laos, Indonesia and Thailand would join in later.

The statement said the talks should lead to a withdrawal of Vietnam's forces "in three stages within a clearly fixed time table under international supervision."

The Phnom Penh government should be dismantled after the second stage and replaced by a provisional four-party coalition headed by Sihanouk, the statement said.

Vietnam has said 50,000 of its 100,000 troops in Kampuchea would withdraw this year and the remaining soldiers would be out in 1990.

New pacemaker helps people to live active life

OSLO, June 27, (Reuters): A new kind of pacemaker using micro-electronic technology could give thousands of people with heart problems the chance to lead a more active life, a leading specialist said today.

Professor Ole Joergen Ohm said he led a team that performed the world's first successful operation using the pacemaker.

"This could help thousands of people all over the world who suffer from fairly common heart ailments the chance to have a more active social and working life," he said.

"Enormous progress in the field of micro-electronics means that many few techniques are being developed," Ohm said. "Ours is just one of them — but it is something that could bring more hope to people fighting heart disease."

The pacemaker, which regulates the heartbeat, has a sensor that responds directly to levels of oxygen in the blood. As physical exertion increases, the sensor tells the heart to pump faster.

Maltese call off strike

VALLETTA, June 27, (Reuters): About 10,000 striking Maltese workers returned to work today after failing to halt a visit by British warships which unions said were carrying nuclear weapons.

Malta's General Workers Union, the island's largest, ordered the strikes after the opposition Labour Party said the visit violated Malta's principles of non-alignment and neutrality.

Britain refuses to say which of its ships are armed with nuclear weapons.

The squadron — the aircraft carrier Ark Royal, destroyer Edinburgh and two auxiliary ships — drew large crowds to Malta's St Paul's Bay over the weekend.

Thousands of Maltese flocked to the tourist resort bay to welcome the British sailors ashore, including Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew.

The flotilla was diverted from Malta's Grand Harbour on Saturday morning after protesters blockaded the entrance with ships.

Status of women highest in Sweden

WASHINGTON, June 27, (AP): Sweden leads the world in the status of women, followed by Finland and the United States, while women in Bangladesh suffer the greatest discrimination, a private population group reports.

The Independent Population Crisis Committee ranked nearly 100 countries according to the status of women and how their treatment compares with men. The results were released in a study entitled "Poor, Powerless and Pregnant."

"The world's poorest women live on the edge of subsistence. They are politically and legally powerless. They are caught in a life cycle that begins with early marriage and pregnancy and too often ends with death in childbirth," said Dr Sharon Camp, vice-president of the group.

No country managed to be listed as "excellent," but Sweden led the "very good" section,

followed by Finland and the United States.

Also listed as very good were East Germany, Norway, Canada and Denmark.

Bottom five

Bangladesh finished a distant last, with Mali, Afghanistan, North Yemen and Pakistan rounding out the bottom five on the list.

The country ratings, developed in a year-long study, are based on measures of women's status in the areas of health, marriage and children, education, employment and social equality.

Nowhere do women enjoy equal status with men, the report said.

"But in the least developed countries of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America, crushing poverty overlaid with long-standing patterns of discrimination create living conditions for women almost too harsh to imagine," the report said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Divers escape

JAKARTA, June 27, (UPI): The last two American scuba diving enthusiasts held on an Indonesian island for three months were reported today to have escaped by boat, following in the wake of four other California divers now back home.

They didn't turn up in court today, and so I guess we can presume they've gone," said Paul Martino in a telephone interview from Tanjungpinang, 60 miles (96 kms) south of Singapore on the island of Bintan.

Prince Charles

CHUR, Switzerland, June 27, (AP): Investigators dropped a criminal inquiry and cleared Britain's Prince Charles of personal fault after an avalanche that killed one of his close friends and injured another, authorities said today.

Chinese missiles

WASHINGTON, June 27, (AP): Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin asked for US help in blocking Chinese missile sales to Arab countries, US officials said today.

Frank Carlucci

WASHINGTON, June 27, (Reuters): Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said today he plans to visit Moscow in early August for talks aimed at expanding US-Soviet military contacts.

4 seamen die

BARCELONA, Spain, June 27, (Reuters): Four Filipino seamen were killed and their Greek captain was injured when they fell five metres (16 feet) into the hold of a ship docked at Barcelona's port today, local authorities said.

'North and Poindexter are innocent'

WASHINGTON, June 27, (Reuters): President Reagan declared today that he believes former White House aides Oliver North and John Poindexter are innocent of Iran-Contra crimes and said he hoped the legal process would go forward quickly.

"I believe in the innocence of the two men and I would like to see that established once and for all," Reagan said in response to a reporter's question at the start of a meeting with visiting Turkish President Kenan Evren.

Reagan was also asked whether he agreed with some White House aides who suggested last week the administration wanted the legal process to move quickly forward to trials and if he would order the administration's process of declassifying vast numbers of secret documents to be speeded up.

The President replied, "I would hope that we could."

Merit

Rich yet light.

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سلامة امارة الامارات

'Return of Afghan refugees requires new government'

BEIJING, June 27. (Reuters): The return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan will be possible only after the establishment of a broad-based government acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people, Pakistan's foreign minister said.

The New China News Agency quoted Sahabzada Yaqub Khan as saying at a banquet last night in his honour that the return of the refugees depended on peaceful conditions in Afghanistan, only possible after the setting up of such a government.

"The return of the Afghan refugees must await the emergence of peaceful conditions in Afghanistan, which is only possible after the establishment of broad-based Afghan government acceptable to the majority

of the Afghan people," he said. Yaqub Khan arrived in Beijing on Sunday on an official visit. China is a close ally of Pakistan.

He said Pakistan was scrupulously abiding by the commitments of the Geneva accords, which include a procedure for dealing with alleged violations, and was giving full co-operation to UN officials.

Mines Meanwhile, Soviet troops withdrawing from Afghanistan are removing mines they had laid to protect their positions, the Communist Party daily Pravda said today.

By the end of May, 1,518 of the 2,131 minefields laid by Soviet forces had been cleared, the newspaper said.

Another 100 minefields were

turned over to the Afghan Army defending the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Pravda denied charges it said were made by Western media that the Soviet Union was leaving vast areas of Afghanistan mined as it brings its troops home.

The newspaper said 10 civilians were killed on Friday by mines along the road from Jalalabad to Kabul, but charged that the mines had been laid by Afghan rebels, not Soviet troops.

The Soviet Union began withdrawing more than 100,000 soldiers from Afghanistan in mid-May under accords signed by Pakistan and Afghanistan in Geneva a month earlier.

All Soviet troops are due to leave by February 15, 1989.

Aquino is sick of yellow

MANILA, June 27. (Reuters): Tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree.'

Tie it anywhere, in fact, except on Corazon Aquino.

The Philippine president has had enough of the colour that was the symbol of her rise to power.

"I have grown tired of it," Aquino said on Sunday of the colour that represented her "people power" revolution. Her disclosure follows years of yellow dresses, yellow ribbons, yellow everything from flowers to political posters.

Popularity

The colour was popularised by Aquino's husband, Benigno, as a symbol of opposition to President Ferdinand Marcos, and became entrenched as a political gesture after Benigno was assassinated in 1983 as he returned to the Philippines from exile in the United States.

Close friends of the President say her favourite colour is fuchsia.

US bases talks to reshape Manila ties

MANILA, June 27. (Reuters): The Philippines is using talks on the future of big US military bases here to reshape a relationship it sees as unequal and exploitative, Philippines Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said.

"It is evident... that we in the Philippines have been taken for granted," he told a businessmen's group today. "We have succumbed to romantic embraces (from the United States) sometimes so tight that they stifled our initiative and our national sovereignty."

Manglapus, who heads a government team which is reviewing with an American panel the bilateral agreement on the bases, said Washington was not giving Manila enough money to compensate for having such vital installations.

Boost

"Certainly what they are giving us is not commensurate at all," he said. He said a 1985 US congressional study suggested that closure of the Clark and Subic Bay Air and Naval bases near Manila would mean deploying

up to six additional US naval battle groups in the Pacific at a cost of more than \$60 billion.

Philippine negotiators have made it clear they are seeking a significant boost in US aid. Under an existing package, Washington has pledged an annual \$180 million for the five-year period 1985-1989.

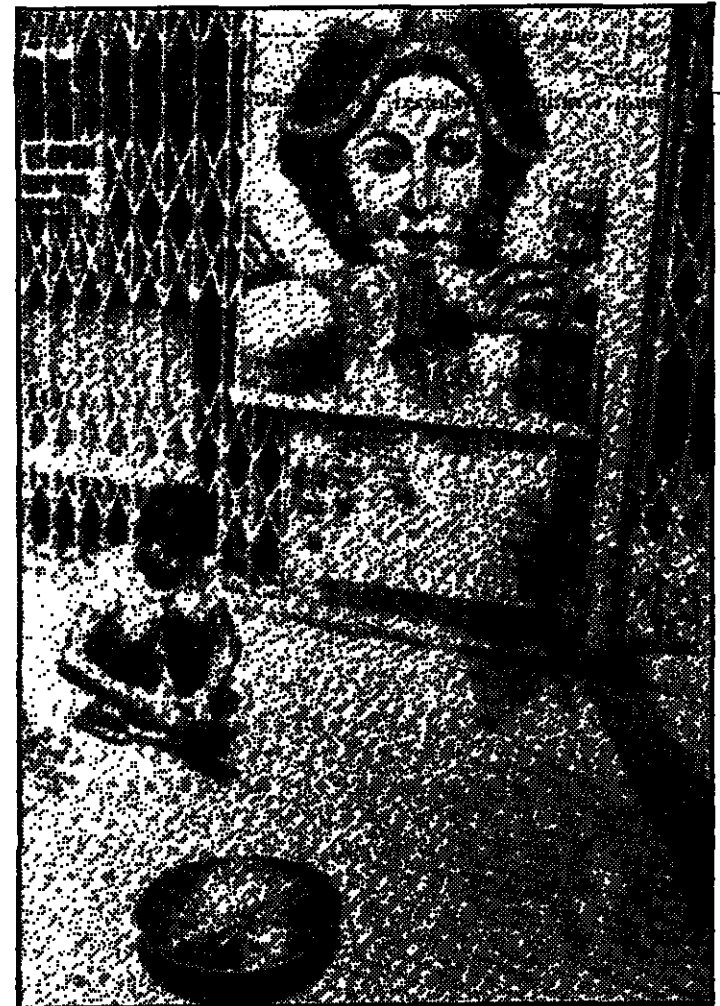
Actual annual aid since President Corason Aquino came to office in 1986 has exceeded \$350 million.

Earlier, leading Senators at a breakfast gathering, said Aquino's insistence on keeping open her options on the bases was causing dangerous confusion.

"We're receiving contradictory signals from the executive," said Leticia Shahani, chairwoman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Shahani, who says she favours a gradual phasing out of the bases, added: "It is time we stop playing the guessing game on this issue."

About 50 women activists demonstrated today outside the US embassy, calling for removal of the bases.



One of the thousands of gold-seekers sweeps the pavement outside a jewellery shop in Calcutta. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sweeping dusty roads of Calcutta in search of gold

CALCUTTA, June 27. (Reuters): Early in the morning, as Calcutta's Bowbazar red-light district settles down to sleep, a group of men leave their shanty homes and literally sweep the dusty streets in a never-ending search for gold.

Armed with brooms, sieves and aluminium bowls, they scour the narrow streets outside the dozens of jewellery workshops operating in Bowbazar alongside the district's prostitutes.

The gold-sweepers are from the 1,000-strong Neraya community, Muslims from the north who came to India's largest city a century ago in search of work.

They found it on the streets of Bowbazar, searching for tiny specks of gold wafted into the dust by the wind or carried on the clothes of passing goldsmiths.

"For generations my family has been doing this," said Abu Mohammed as he set out on his painstaking task.

"I quite enjoy the work, with its element of risk and luck."

"You may think the amount of gold escaping this way must be tiny. But when hundreds of goldsmiths pass this way, it's not," said 70-year-old Tayeb Ali who has been in the gold-sweeping business for 60 years.

Pickings The pickings are richest in the run-up to Hindu festivals or months considered auspicious for marriages, when a lot of gold jewellery is prepared as gifts.

"Sometimes we make as much as 3,000 rupees (\$230) in a week during festivals," said Tayeb.

For much of the time the work is non-productive drudgery. "It's a back-breaking job but we do not do it just to earn a living. Gold has a certain magic about it which always haunts us," said Abu Mohammed.

Abu's day begins just before dawn when he hurries into the narrow Bowbazar streets lined with crumbling, century-old buildings. His goal is to collect as much dust as possible before the competition moves in.

He sweeps until noon and then hauls off sacks full of dust to a large banyan tree nearby.

The group meets here every afternoon to process the dust and separate out the gold," he said.

Dust First of all they minutely sift through the dust looking for anything which may be a speck of gold. The haul is then treated with a mercury compound which separates the gold from the dirt. The result is sold back to goldsmiths, although it has to be further refined before they can turn it into jewellery.

"Most days are a waste of effort but the hope of getting a windfall keeps us on," said Tayeb. "The heavy monsoons are the worst for us. All the gold dust gets washed away and we can do nothing about it," said Abu.

"But one gets addicted to this. We could easily find better jobs, but we don't know if we would enjoy it so much."

The Nerayas are confident their trade will endure.

Laos holds first polls in 13 years

BANGKOK, June 27. (Reuters): Hundreds of thousands of Laotians went to the polls "in a jubilant atmosphere" on Sunday for the first elections in the isolated South-East Asian nation since the communists took power 13 years ago.

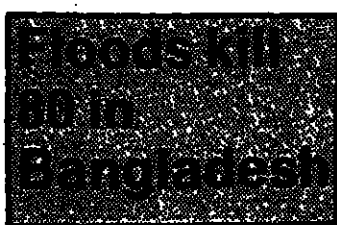
"Reports from many localities say the district-level election has been carried out in a joyous, orderly manner throughout the country," state-run Vientiane Radio, monitored in Bangkok, said today.

Nearly two million Laotians over the age of 18 were eligible to cast ballots for members of 910 local councils throughout the mountainous nation in the first of three elections this year leading to an elected parliament.

State radio said voters in the capital of Vientiane, led by general secretary Kaysone Phomvihane, "went to the many beautifully decorated polls in a jubilant atmosphere."

No foreign journalists were allowed in to report on the elections and the Laotian authorities strictly limit the movement of diplomats and aid workers in the country.

State radio broadcast conversations between radio personalities "uncle Sat and uncle Sang" who urged listeners to get out and vote and told them how to mark their ballots.



DHAKA, June 27. (Reuters): Monsoon floods ravaging Bangladesh killed 14 people today bringing to 80 the flood death toll since May, official sources said today.

They said the latest deaths occurred in north-eastern Sylhet and Sunamganj districts, whose road links with the rest of the country have been cut.

Most major rivers have burst their banks and flooded a vast area affecting 10 million people nationwide, the officials said.

Half a million people have been marooned in the Sylhet and Sunamganj after river waters inundated low-lying areas and paddy fields, they said.

Agriculture officials said the floods had already swamped 260,000 acres of rice field but they could not give any estimate of crop loss.

Food Minister Sardar Amjad Hossain told parliament on Sunday the crop damage was not yet significant compared to a loss of nearly 3.4 million tonnes in last year's floods.

He said it could be serious if there were more rains and floods. The Dhaka weather office said they expected more rain in the coming weeks.

In Dhaka, many roads were under waist-deep water following 650 millimetres (26 inches) of rain in the past three days.

Uno concludes Mideast tour

Israel urged to make progress in peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 27. (AP): Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno ended a one-day visit to Israel after telling Israeli leaders that closer relations with his country depended on progress towards peace in the Middle East.

Uno, the first cabinet-level Japanese official to visit Israel, left for Paris today.

At a dinner last night given by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Uno stressed the need for Israel to be more flexible in seeking peace with its Arab neighbours.

"Only in a peaceful situation will relations between our two countries fully develop," he said.

Uno, who visited a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank yesterday also said that the Japanese people were concerned about the volatile situation in the Middle East.

Investment

"The state of affairs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is daily shown on the televisions in Japan, and the Japanese people are following the developments in this region with... deep apprehension," he said at a dinner with Peres on Sunday night. "The situation demands an early solution."

The Japanese minister held

private meetings with Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Israeli media reports said the two Israeli leaders suggested plans for more Japanese investment in Israel but did not urge any immediate reply from Uno.

Japan's views on the Middle East are directly opposite to Israel's. Japan has urged that Israel withdraw from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and negotiate a peace with the PLO.

Opposition

The two-hour long talks held with Peres were described as frank by both sides. Peres pressed Uno about his country's position that Israel should withdraw from all territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, officials said.

"I think most of the subjects that have been raised will be reconsidered by the Japanese," Peres told Israel Radio.

Shamir also reiterated his opposition to a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East as well as his insistence on direct talks between Israel and her neighbours, said Avi Pazner, a spokesman for the Israeli leader.

During his 22-hour visit, Uno

also met with local Palestinian leaders from the West Bank. He told refugees at the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem that he was "fully aware of your indefatigable way of life" in the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation that began last December.

At least 211 Palestinians and four Israelis have died in the uprising which began on Dec 8, according to UN figures.

Israeli officials and prominent Palestinians view Japanese foreign minister's visit as an attempt by Tokyo to expand its role in the Middle East and possibly seek a role as a regional peacemaker.

● The embassy of Japan in Kuwait said in a press release yesterday Uno visited the Dheisheh refugee camp in the West Bank and announced Japan's emergency contribution to UNRWA.

Uno expressed the sympathy of Japanese people for the Palestinians' situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He announced Japan's intention to extend an emergency contribution of \$500,000 to the UNRWA's relief operations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

World's most expensive cities

GENEVA, June 27. (KUNA): The world's most expensive cities for foreigners paid in dollars are Tokyo and Osaka, where the cost of living is more than double that in New York, followed in third place by Tehran, according to a survey published here today by a financial services group, Business International.

Data from 103 countries on food, transport, clothing and entertainment costs converted into dollars on April 8, showed that in Europe, Oslo is the most expensive city, closely followed by Zurich and Geneva and then Helsinki.

Worldwide the fourth to tenth-ranked cities are Libreville, Brazzaville, Lome, Oslo, Abidjan, Dakar and Zurich equal, and Geneva.

Using a living costs index which gave New York 100 points, top-ranking Tokyo was more than double this, at 221 points.

Nearly all the world's cheapest cities were in Latin America. Of the Arab cities covered by Business International, the most expensive for dollar-paid executives and their families is Algiers, ranked 23, with an index of 116.

Next comes Amman, 27th, with its index of 106.

Next in the Arab cities is Abu Dhabi, ranked 35th. Kuwait is next followed by Dubai at 37th.

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HORIZON

KUWAIT ... GULF

1,200 cases received annually

30 per cent of cancer patients are Kuwaitis

A SENIOR Kuwaiti physician has said that Kuwait's centre for combating cancer annually receives 1,200 cancer cases, 350-400 of which could be cured.

The director of the centre, Dr Yousif Tawfiq told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that 30 per cent of the cases received by the centre are Kuwaiti, 40 per cent expatriate and the rest of the patients transferred from Bahrain, Oman, Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen and Yemen Arab Republic.

He noted that lung cancer is prevalent among men while breast cancer is most pervasive among women in Kuwait, adding that the number of women patients suffering from lung cancer has increased dramatically during the last five years.

Documented

About 30 per cent of the cancer patients treated in the centre, which was established in 1982, were cured.

The proportion of cancer cases cured in Kuwait is less than those treated in international centres because cancer patients in Kuwait come forward for treatment after their illness has

developed, he said, adding that the centre is well equipped.

He noted that cancer cases in Kuwait are far less than similar cases in the US.

Kuwait is distinguished from other Arab countries by acquiring detailed statistics on cancer patients treated in Kuwait annually.

The first cancer registry in Kuwait was in 1974. All cancer cases and other medical and epidemic data on the illness are documented.

Cancer affects all ages, including children, Dr Omran noted and said that the proportion of the illness increases with age.

New-born babies can acquire cancer due to genetic problems, the physician clarified.

The most common cancer among children in Kuwait is leukaemia and brain cancer, as in Western countries.

Cause

On what causes cancer, Dr Omran said smoking and alcohol can cause cancer, in addition to pollution due to industrial waste and toxic materials.

Malignant tumours can double in 6 or 7 months, others grow in a few days, he noted, saying a

cure for the illness depends on how early it is discovered and how much it has spread in the body.

If diagnosed in its early stages, the possibility for a cure lies in the range of 70-90 per cent, he indicated, saying that some developed cases can also be treated.

Study

In this regard, Dr Omran called for the setting up of specialised clinics for comprehensive medical check-up to facilitate early diagnosis of cancer, hoping that such a service would be provided in Kuwait.

The centre has conducted a comprehensive study on early diagnosis of breast cancer in the country and the stages it passes through medical survey.

Women over the age of 40 are X-rayed every two or three years in order to discover the illness.

Women over 25 undergo periodical check-up of the uterus to detect any cancer presence.

Finally, Dr Omran said that if breast cancer was diagnosed in a patient, the rest of the family should undergo medical check-up, because of hereditary predisposition.

Saudi Arabia hails Iraqi victories

RIYADH, June 27, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia today hailed Iraqi military victories against Iran and called for a swift end to the Gulf war.

"These victories affirm that right always triumphs," Deputy Defence Minister Prince Abdul-Rahman Bin Abdulaziz told the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) after attending a graduation ceremony at a military college.

Iraq recaptured the Majnoon islands on the southern war-

front from Iran on Saturday, dealing Tehran its many months.

The prince, whose country is a firm backer of Iraq, said Riyadh wanted a quick end to the Iran-Iraq war, now in its eighth year.

Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic ties with Iran in April, accusing it of hostile behaviour.

Iraq, meanwhile, took reporters to view the scene of its major battlefield success — the Majnoon islands in the marshlands

of southern Iraq.

Baghdad said it used paratroopers, hovercraft and tanks to encircle defenders of the islands, which lie atop one of the world's biggest oilfields and which were seized by Iran three years ago.

A military spokesman said Iraq had captured more than 2,200 Iranians in the Majnoon fighting. He said they were paraded through the streets of Basra yesterday.



Some of the Iranian prisoners of war.

Indian envoy

KUWAIT'S Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah received at his office today Indian Ambassador to Kuwait N. N. Jha.

They discussed bilateral relations and means of enhancing them in press, radio and television fields, in addition to other issues of mutual concern.

Coasts protection campaign

THE director of the Environment Protection Department Ibrahim Hadi said that the coasts protection campaign adopted by the Environment Protection Council had significantly contributed in preserving Kuwaiti coasts.

In an interview with a local daily, Hadi was quoted as saying "this year's campaign will begin as of next Saturday". The council, he said, had added some new activities to the campaign, including, arranging a competition for children ranging between 6 to 10 years. The competition is for the best phrase produced on environment. A carnival for cleaning companies would also be included. Several seminars at sea-clubs have also been planned he said.

On pollution resulting from the influx of visitors to the Water Front Project, he said that Kuwait's Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC) supervised the cleaning process with the Environment Protection Council playing a central role. Daily cleaning by TEC he said would decrease the pollution.

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هاتفه ٥٣١٧٥٩٣



● HH the Amir yesterday received editors-in-chief of daily newspapers and magazines. The meeting was attended by the Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah and Information Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Mohammed Jaafar and Assistant Undersecretary Hamad Yousef Al Roumi.

UAE official lauds role of Kuwait Roads Safety Society

TRAFFIC awareness and the increase in traffic accidents were topics discussed at the weekly seminar of Roads Safety Society.

The director of the traffic department of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Samia speaking at the weekly seminar of Roads Safety Society, lauded the Kuwaiti experiment in the field of traffic awareness in general and the role of the Roads Safety Society towards minimising of traffic accidents in particular. Kuwait, he said, had set an example to be emulated by all GCC countries.

Samia added that the traffic issue was one of the problems facing GCC countries in view of the similarity of environment, traditions, and behaviour of the member states and called for

enhanced cooperation between GCC member states.

Also speaking at the seminar, the chairman of Roads Safety Society Sabah Al Rayes said the society was established in 1982 with the concept of reducing traffic accidents which costs the GCC states financial burdens. The society, he said, organised weekly seminars to highlight mortality rates resulting from traffic accidents. These efforts were reflected in a significant drop in death rates — 299 cases were recorded compared to 519 cases recorded in 1982.

Human error

Al Rayes added that these results had been achieved through the cooperation of the society, the traffic department, Ministry of Information and the

local media. The costs of traffic accidents amounted to 250,000 and 250,000 Kuwaiti dinars respectively each year he said.

Major General (retired) Yusuf Al Saad, the deputy chairman of the society said that statistics indicated that human error was the main cause for 85 per cent of traffic accidents. He added, the society paid special attention to this issue.

Dr Mahmoud Al Bustan, also speaking at the seminar said the Roads Safety Society since its establishment paid special attention to the legal, security, engineering, medical, educational and environmental aspects of the traffic problems. He added, that the society to serve these issues, had hosted several specialists to discourse on these different specialisations.

Arbitration panel issued 1,239 sentences

SALEM AL KHUDAYER, director of the rules execution department at the Ministry of Justice said the arbitration panel had issued 1,239 sentences since 1983 with regards to post dated cheques (Al Manakh crisis).

He added that the department had appropriated KD638 million against 1041 sentences and 167 sentences amounting to KD197 million are yet to be implemented. Implementation is executed according to the Kuwaiti Code of Procedures, he said.

Al Khudayer disclosed that a creditor has the right to request seizure of all assets of the debtor — except the private residence.

Contracts signed

THE Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houti has signed two contracts for the construction of temporary works at the Amir Diwan and HH the Crown Prince and Premier's office and for building a police station in Wafra.

A ministry release yesterday said that the first contract, worth KD448,000, includes demolition of old buildings and building new ones along with erecting security blocks.

The second KD819,000 contract stipulates the construction and maintenance of a police station in Wafra and other affiliated facilities.

New uniforms for police

A LOCAL daily said that Kuwait's police force will don new khaki-coloured uniforms from Saturday, July 2. The new uniforms with some modifications resemble those of the 60's. They are more appropriate to Kuwait's climate — especially during summer — as short-sleeved shirts will be part of the uniform.

Call for paying telephone bills

AN official source in the Communications Ministry yesterday asked all telephone subscribers to pay their dues so that lines won't be disconnected.

Headed, in a press statement, that the service will be cancelled for good if after 60 days from disconnecting the telephone line the dues were still not paid.

Sheikh Issa invited to visit Seoul

BAHRAIN, June 27, (Reuters): South Korea yesterday invited the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa to visit Seoul, Bahrain television reported.

It gave no further details of the invitation from South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo.

Telex subscription and installation charges reduced

AUTHORITATIVE sources stated that the annual telex subscription and installation charges have been reduced by 50 per cent.

In an interview with a local daily, the director of foreign accounts department at Kuwait's Ministry of Communication Meriam Al Asfour said the ministerial decision had been designed mainly to serve the subscribers, alleviate financial burdens and to unify the GCC countries telex tariff.

She said, fees were fixed at KD70 per annum instead of KD140 and charges for transfer of telex from one location to another had been reduced by 50

per cent from KD140 to KD70 — transfers within the same building had been reduced by 40 per cent from KD25 to KD15. Further, the minimum charges were cancelled — if the machine had not been used during the relevant month.

Reconnections were charged at KD5, while previously the subscriber paid two per cent of the unsettled amount of his bill she said.

Al Asfour said that teleprinter subscription fees for the single unit had been reduced from KD650 to KD600 per year and for the double, fees were reduced from KD890 to KD780 per year. However, the deposit fee for the telecommunication equipments remained unchanged with KD400 for telex machines, KD2000 for protected circuit and KD300 for the teleprinter.

Arab American delegation meets Saqr

A DELEGATION representing the National Association for Arab Americans yesterday met with chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saqr.

Well informed sources told KUNA that the developments in the Iran-Iraq war and its effects on freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf have been the centre of both parties' talks.

They added that the delegation which included chairman of the association George Moussa, board chairman Alfred Shihab and former chairman David Saad briefed Al Saqr with the association's activities in the United States and their role in the political and economic life there. The sources said both sides also reviewed the economic relations between the United States and Kuwait in light of the Arab-American relations.

The delegation, which arrived here Friday, is currently on a tour that would also cover a number of Arab states.

State security case verdict today

THE State Security Court will deliver its judgement today on five Kuwaitis charged with possession of explosives and conspiracy to carry out acts of sabotage and assassinations.

The session will be open to the public.

Man with 4 kidneys

A SAUDI man has been found to have four kidneys and four ureters according to a Saudi newspaper.

Though the case is very rare, the man is living a normal life free of any complications, the daily quoted a doctor as saying.

Nawaf meets Rezouqi

KUWAIT'S Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed received in his office yesterday Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Dr Tareq Rezouqi.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir received yesterday Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Sulaiman Salem Al Fossam, who took permission to leave the country to assume his new post.

Congratulations

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to President of Djibouti Hassan Gouled on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Cable of condolences

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on the passing away of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, chairman of the Central Municipal Authority.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah received at his office in the Council of Ministers yesterday Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, the governor of Hawalli Sheikh Salman Al Humoud, chairperson and members of the Fatah Club's board of directors Sheikh Sabiha Abdullah Al Ahmad, Louloua Al Baddah and Najat Hamad Al Sultan.

Sheikh Saad also received a number of citizens in the public diwan.

Crown Prince cables

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to President of Djibouti Hassan Gouled on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Sheikh Saad sent a similar cable to that African country's Premier Barkat Gourad Homodou.

Sheikh Saad also sent a cable of condolences to Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa on the passing away of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, head of the Bahraini Central Municipal Authority.

Sheikh Saad sent a similar cable to Bahraini Premier Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and commander-in-chief of Bahrain Defence Force Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Arabs urged to support Iraq

AT THIS critical stage of developments in the Gulf war, Arabs should boost their support for Iraq to deter Iran and its illusive attempts in prolonging the war, daily Al Anba'a said yesterday.

The paper also called the Arab states to implement the Arab joint defence agreement "at least once".

In an editorial the paper, recalled that it had for many items called on the Arab states to collectively support Iraq against the Persian aggression.

The Iraqi military pressure on Iran along with an effective Arab support could accomplish more positive results at these final stages of the war, the paper said.

It went on saying that Iraq's recent liberation of Majnoon islands is part of its strategic plan to end the eight-year-old Iraq-Iran war.

The long years of the Gulf war have proved that force is the only mean that could force Iran to listen to peace calls, the paper said.

Arab children's conference

AMMAN, June 27, (KUNA): The eighth conference of the Arab children was to begin here today under the patronage of Queen Noor Al Hussein and under the slogan of "the Arab child's participating capability."

The conference which will be attended by 15 Arab ambassadors, includes activities in general services, folkloric dance, a day in the park and a day in the Jordanian armed forces.

A eight-seating tour is to be organised for the guest children aged between 10 and 13 years old.

On the sideline of the conference a seminar will be held to discuss means of bringing up the Arab child to enable him to face life.

Amir to receive sports clubs leaders

AUTHORITATIVE sources said that HH the Amir will receive on Wednesday the presidents of sports clubs and federations. The delegation's visit is to thank HH the Amir for his magnanimous financial contributions towards sports clubs and federations.

Children from 15 Arab countries will participate in the conference. The Arab countries represented in the conference are Kuwait, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen Arab Republic, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Somalia, Jordan and Palestine.

However, the Arab children conference started in 1980 at the initiative of Queen Noor, and is held annually, except for the year 1982 due to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Amir sends message to Saleh

PRESIDENT of Yemen Arab Republic Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh received a written message from HH the Amir of Kuwait and chairman of the Fifth Islamic Summit Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, it was announced here last night.

Radio Sanna, reported that the message is on issues concerning the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in addition to bilateral relations.

Haj convoys finishing arrangements

IN Kuwait, convoy leaders are finalising arrangements to proceed for haj. Most of the convoys are situated in the Sulaybiyah area just a little distance away from the Al Azzam roundabout.

Out of 70 convoys which applied for authorisation at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, 55 have been approved. They will soon take 13,000 pilgrims to the holy places in Saudi Arabia.

The leader of the Huraifi haj

convoy informed Al Seyassah that the ministry had fixed a limit of 100 pilgrims as a minimum and 300 as maximum per convoy. He added that 30 workers, 30 drivers and four skilled cooks would attend to the requirements of the pilgrims, including, two employees to handle customs formalities. Each van and supervan were equipped with essential services such as A/C systems and other amenities and prices varied according to number of passengers designed for

each vehicle. Another leader, Abdul Aziz Al Nahham said this year convoy leaders competed in offering their services at no extra charge, declined to carry too many passengers and were committed to the schedule.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has issued instructions to all pilgrims to refrain from involving themselves in any matters that do not have a direct bearing on the haj rituals.



Starting avenue of a haj convoy.

Azad Rahman wants to put Bangladesh back on music map

A LEADING Bangladeshi musician Azad Rahman, has lamented "cultural apathy" in his country, known for its musical heritage and traditions.

Azad Rahman, who was in Kuwait to take part in a concert, said concerted efforts by his government are needed to "put back music on the road to revival."

"We need strict government control and a well-defined policy guiding the revival of music. This is absolutely essential," he said.

He suggested the adoption of a "systematic approach" to revive the music culture of his country.

"For Bangladesh, music was and is a way of life. Today, however, things are changing. The quality of music is deteriorating. People lack appreciation for folk and classical music," he said.

Rahman feels there is an "urgent need" to take stock of the situation and prevent music from further decline through what he calls the "bad influence of the television and film media."

"Its deterioration has just begun; now is the time to take

action. If nothing is done now it would be too late," he warns. The saddest part, he says, is that culture of music is fast declining in the sub-continent — in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Legacy

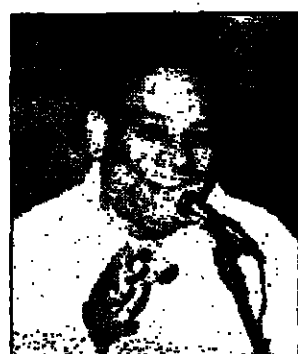
For Rahman, music "is a legacy" and he wants it to continue in his country, and other parts of the region, which are intertwined by a common musical heritage.

"The music of Bangladesh derives from Indian classical sound. This is true of the musical tradition of all sub-continent countries," he says. The only difference is the regional stamp, derived from the socio-economic background of the people who adopted it, he adds.

"For a human being to be human, it is necessary to absorb music, enjoy it and pass it on to future generations," he says.

Music is a message of love and peace for Rahman, who is a noted Bangladeshi composer, lyricist, singer and classical music exponent.

"My people don't appreciate classical music anymore," he laments, adding that the "situa-



Azad Rahman

tion is a shade better in India."

Music, like art, needs an identity and the time has come for Bangladesh to "acquire their own language of music."

For this, he said, Bangladesh needs a comprehensive policy. "Without knowledge and background you can't create an identity," he says, advocating the setting up of a "platform" for the younger generation to learn its history and lay the foundation for a stronger musical base.

"If one doesn't have knowledge how can one recognise the heart, mind and soul of music?" he asks.

Efforts are being made to preserve the cultural heritage

through such institutions as the Shilpkala Academy, but Rahman feels they are not sufficient to revive the culture. Lamenting its loss, he talks about the "rich musical heritage" of his country, which has a basic regional flavour — for instance Sylhet style, Nazrul and Tagore songs.

Ballads

Bangladeshi folk music is derived from the fishing and farming culture of the country. Fishermen's ballads and farmer's songs are at once calm and rhythmic, combining melody and harmony, described by Rahman as "folk culture."

Rahman, keen to put back Bangladesh on the music map, has set up The Centre for Education for Creative and Performing Arts. His ambition is to establish a "research centre" for music, studying its origins, variations, styles and looking into the stylistic changes that have come about over the years.

"The interpretation of music — in India, Bangladesh or Pakistan — varies; it has altered considerably. I want to study it in the light of today's culture,"

he says explaining his goal. He believes he has "sown the seeds". Only time will tell if he has succeeded.

"I have done what I had to do and not for what I will achieve," he says. He claims he wants to benefit his society as a whole by laying the foundation for reviving a musical culture.

His strategy seems to be clearcut: a) to create musicians and help them achieve an indigenous Bangladeshi style and b) simultaneously lay the base for an appreciative audience.

"If there is no audience appreciation, there is no charm in singing," he says.

For now he is content to "mature as a musician". Recently he made a classical record of "Bangla kheyal". He claims, it is the only classical kheyal record in Bangladesh.

He also basks in his past successes, which include composing music for 100 films and candidly admits: "My style has deteriorated due to film music," and adds "one has to earn a living, and for that you have to make a compromise."

Yet, his interest in pure, classical sound has not diminished. FA

Some dumb things men do — and Bill Cosby

By Ken Franckling

MANSFIELD, Massachusetts (UPI): For Bill Cosby, turning 50 felt like a trip to the fun house when he was a kid, playing games with both mind and body.

The king of TV situation comedy rolls his eyes and breaks into an elastic grin as he talks about the way things are breaking down.

He grabs two thick handfuls of waistline that didn't used to reside around his middle.

"I know it's fat," he says, "because when I pinch it, it doesn't hurt."

On the stand-up comedy circuit, where his craft was honed long before television discovered him, Cosby now examines the landscape of life from the perspective of a male Erma Bombeck.

This night before a near-sellout crowd at the Great Woods Centre for the performing arts, Cosby, dressed in black sweatpants, an emerald windbreaker over a Hampton University sweatshirt, a baseball hat and sneakers. A chair and microphone are his only props on the orchestra-size stage.

He snaps the elastic waistband on his baggy pants.

"My waist is 38," Cosby says. "My ego pants at home are 34 — and I promised them I'd be back."

He looks down, then mentions how he can only see the tips of his feet in the shower. ("At least I hope they're mine.")

Many in the audience nod in agreement, nudging their companions and laughing until it brings tears.

Fertile

But it isn't just the body that plays tricks on us, Cosby spends 10 minutes of his two-hour schtick showing, and telling, what happens when the mind goes sour. Forgetting what you went into another room to get. Dialling the phone and as it rings, forgetting whom you're calling.

"I don't know why my brain does this to me, because I was good to my brain when I was young," Cosby said. "I took care of it."

Everyday life has always been fertile ground for Cosby's universal truths.

He offered a localised zinger on driving in Boston, a place he says that many outsiders

believe is where the pilgrims live.

"You don't expect Boston people to be going sideways and cursing at each other," Cosby says. "Once you get to downtown Boston you might as well sell your car. Any turn you make is wrong."

On the stage, he is the guy next door. Not America's favourite TV dad. Not the face in the prime time commercials. Not the shrewd businessman. Not one of the richest performers alive.

In his early comedy days, Cosby packed up five Grammy Awards for his comedy albums. He talked of growing up. The stories of his younger brother Russell, of Fat Albert. The imagined conversation in which God tells a sceptical Noah to build an ark.

With the same warm and gentle humour, his forte is now about being hip (something your children always are; and you never will be until you become a grandparent), insects, dogs, and dentists, the dumb things men do, and marriage.

"With five children (ages 23, 22, 18, 15 and 12 going on 60) all I want is my wife back," Cosby says.



Bill Cosby: one of the richest performers

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tareq Rajab Museum

The museum in Jabriya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9am to 12 noon and 4 to 7pm, Sat. thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

Islamic Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

CINEMA

British Council

A children's film, Alice in Wonderland, based on Lewis Carroll's immortal story, will be shown on June 29, (6 pm) and June 30 (10.30 am) at the British Council, Mansouriya.

On a golden afternoon, young Alice, startled by a white rabbit, follows him and loses her footing and tumbles into a burrow — and enters the merry, topsy-turvy world of Wonderland. It is a blend of fantasy and music. Approximately 72 minutes. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

German-speaking Cultural Association

The regular coffee mornings for ladies will continue on a small scale during the summer months. Coffee mornings will be held on July 3, August 7 and September 4 at Kuwait Hilton's La Patisserie from 10 am on those days. All German-speaking women are welcome.

YMCA

The YMCA will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks will be in attendance.

United Goans Centre The UGC will hold their annual Summer Belle '88 contest on August 11. The committee will host a gala event to mark the 10th anniversary of UGC.

Onam Festival

The Viswabarathi Theatres, Abbasiya, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese — 4314511; Thomas Perumpilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Varghese Paradayil — 2422973.

D'Assisi Association

The association will hold a social evening cum entertainment on August 11 at Messilah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9.30 am to 5pm; Henry 3291909/am, 3717346 (pm) or Augustin 5746754 after 6pm.

HOTELS

At the Continental

The Gardenia, open from 7am to midnight, offers dinner buffet on Thursdays; the buffet features grilled specialties. The Friday lunch features Indian, Arab and Continental cuisine. The Darbar offers an Indian buffet lunch daily except Fridays and a la carte for dinner.

At the Sheraton

Nightly dine in the Hunt Room and live music by the Trio Paradise. For lunch Hunt Room offers a la carte. Tarbouche on the Roof offers a selection of Lebanese cuisine in Al Hembra Night club every Sunday night; live entertainment by the World Machine band.

At the Meridian

Al Fingan Tea Lounge features a selection of coffee, tea and juice. Live entertainment in the evenings is provided. Versailles is open daily for lunch and dinner featuring Continental cuisine. Business lunch with three choices daily also offered. Live entertainment in the evening.

At the Holiday Inn

Choose your lucky star at the strawberry fair, now being held at the hotel. Fresh pastries and cakes (also take-away) featured in the Lobby Cafe.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Rahlat Haul Al Alam: cartoons
10.15 Shams Al Khareef: Arabic serial, starring Tawfiq Abdul Hamid, Farouk Najib, Zizi Badawi.
11.00 News/Good Morning
11.15 Ghaddan Tabda Al Hayat: Arabic serial, featuring Hayat Al Fahad, Ghanem Al Saleh, Suad Abdullah.
12.15 Silver Spoons
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.50 Songs
2.30 Wamrat Al Ayyam: Arabic serial, featuring Juliette Awad, Rabi Al Sadi, Susan Saleh, Iman Kamel.
3.35 Bill and Sebastian: cartoon serial
4.00 World News via Satellite
4.20 Al Maloub: Arabic play, starring: Hassan Abideen, Laila Hamada, Faeza Kamel.
6.00 Cartoons

7.00 Summer 1988
7.15 World About Us
8.15 Hadith Al Usbooh: weekly religious talk
8.30 Souk Al Ghaz: daily Arabic serial
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Naar wa Duqqan: Arabic serial, featuring Sherhan, Mustafa Fahmi, Ahmad Badr.
10.50 Film Min Kitab: presented by Durriya Sharf al din, Suhail Ilyas.
12.35 News Summary/World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.15 Pole Position: cartoons
6.30 Punkney Brewster: "Changes," Part 5. There is a ray of hope for Punkney when she hears about Henry's new job and insists on going back to him. Starring: Soleil Moon-Fry.
7.00 The Natural World: "The Vanishing Earth," Part 2. A

look at agrarian problems.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Moonlighting: Maddie tries to find out Dave's reaction to her proposed marriage. Starring: Cybil Shepherd and Bruce Willis.
9.30 Gimme A Break: "Joey's Teacher," Nell, trying to solve Joey's problems, gets into trouble herself. Starring: Nell Carter.
10.00 Twilight Zone: a spaceship crash lands in an alien world.
10.30 Made for TV Movie: "A Street to Die." An ex-Vietnam veteran dies in an explosion and when his wife tries to follow-up the accident, she comes up with a blank.

12.00 News Summary
12.05 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newswel
30 Music of the Royal Court (ex 28th 200 Years of Music in Australia)
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Short Story
45 Talk (inc 7th This Particular Place)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 7th and 14th Network UK: 21st and 28th Sportsworld
30 Pomp and Ceremony (ex 7th Sports International; 28th To Be a Pilgrim)
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 John Peel
0400 Newswel
30 A Schubert Anthology

45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 New Ideas
40 Book Choice
45 The World Today
0600 Newswel
30 Counterpoint
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Talk (inc 7th This Particular Place)
45 7th and 14th Network UK: 21st and 28th Sportsworld
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 7th and 14th Tech Talk: 21st and 28th Story
30 Music of the Royal Court (ex 28th 200 Years of Music in Australia)
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 The Financial News followed by Sports Roundup

45 Weber
1000 News Summary followed by Discovery
30 Pomp and Ceremony (ex 7th Sports International; 28th To Be a Pilgrim)
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 7th and 21st Sportsworld; 14th and 28th Waveguide
25 7th and 21st Sportsworld contd., 14th and 28th Book Choice
30 Citizens

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behereen Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Radio Club
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Jaban Numan
2100 Closedown



The Messilah Beach Hotel, Kuwait, recently held a ceremony to award the Best Employee certificate to three of their staff. The awards were for outstanding performance and faithful contribution in keeping the standard of the hotel high. Above: the hotel's general manager Tony Barlow awarding a certificate to Maiani Rajapakse of the housekeeping department.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Hajeri Pharmacy
Hajeri Bldg., Hilali St.
Ajel Pharmacy
Adnan Abdul Aziz Bldg., Palestine St.

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Shamsan Pharmacy
Ibn Khalid St.

Salmiya and Rasmithiya
Al Markaziya Pharmacy
Asfoor Bldg., Omar Bin Al Aas St.

Fahaeel and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road

Khaitan
Al Walda Pharmacy
Main St.

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
The Last Shark
Starring: James Francisco, Vicki Moro

Al Salmiya
Desperately Seeking Susan
Starring: Madonna

Al Hamra
Let's Get Harry
Starring: Robert Duvall, Gary Moss

Drive-In
Laila Al Kabz Ala Bakaiza Wa Zaghloul (Arabic)
Starring: Suhair Babil, Issad Yunus

Al Firdous
Tamacha (Hindi)
Starring: Jeetendra, Bhanu Priya, Rajnikant

Fahaeel Open-Air
Maut Ki Ghati (Hindi)

Al Fahaeel
Ice Pirates
Starring: Raj Bhikari (Bengali)

Granada
Nombarithopoo (Malayalam)

Sulaibikhat
Bamby's Childhood

Al Jeeb
Nokul Shehada (Bengali)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Sha'aban Taht Safar (Arabic)

PRAYERS

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 3.16 am |
| Zuhr | 11.51 |
| Asr | 3.25 pm |
| Maghreb | 6.51 |
| Isha | 8.24 |

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The outgoing Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Syrian Ambassador Essa Darwish (right) receives a gift from the new Dean, Sri Lankan Ambassador A.C.H. Mohammad, at a dinner hosted by the diplomatic corps on Sunday night at the Kuwait Hilton. A large number of diplomats attended the farewell dinner, held for Darwish.



The members and guests of the Kuwait chapter of the Chaine des Rotisseurs recently attended a gala dinner held at the SAS Kuwait Hotel's Peacock Room. The guests included the Swedish Ambassador to Kuwait, Ulf Norstrom. Above: (L-R) William Baker, Jesper Larson, Hans Sundqvist, Mrs Ewa Lundgren and Thomas Lundgren at the dinner.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

YOU may prove anything by figures — Thomas Carlyle, Scottish writer (1795-1881).

Vassiliou set for talks over Cyprus

By Katherine McElroy

NICOSIA, (Reuters): A political newcomer, whom Greek Cypriots picked as president to break 14 years of stalemate on their divided island is preparing for his first major challenge.

George Vassiliou, elected in February, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş are expected to meet next month, probably in Geneva, for the first talks between Cypriot leaders in three years.

Two recent fatal shootouts in the "buffer zone" running the breadth of the Mediterranean holiday island have emphasised the need for a solution to the intractable Cyprus problem.

But few observers predict that a Vassiliou-Denktaş meeting, proposed by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, will in itself bring a breakthrough.

Cyprus has been split since Turkish troops invaded the north in 1974, following a short-lived coup in Nicosia stage-managed by the military dictatorship then ruling Greece.

Troops

The breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus was proclaimed in 1983 but is recognised only by Ankara. Turkey has 29,000 troops in the north, according to UN estimates.

Perez de Cuellar wants a meeting without preconditions to set up talks on reunifying the 9,250 sq km (3,600 sq mile) island.

Vassiliou has accepted the proposal and Denktaş has declared himself ready for a meeting. But Greek Cypriots say he has not yet answered officially.

"I have accepted a meeting for substantive talks... I hope we will go to Geneva," Vassiliou told reporters this week.

He said he hoped Denktaş would answer positively. "Our desire is to solve the Cyprus problem as soon as possible... we know there is a long way ahead."

Political opponents, including former President Spyros Kyprianou, have attacked Vassiliou for accepting a meeting without prior discussion of three issues the Greek Cypriots see as vital.

These are the withdrawal of Turkish troops and settlers, international guarantees for any

pact, and freedom of movement and property ownership for each community in the whole island.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz sparked angry demonstrations in the south with an official visit to the breakaway north last week.

Yilmaz said he had invited Denktaş to visit Ankara from July 4 to 6 for talks at the highest level before the proposed meeting with Vassiliou. It would be the first between Cypriot leaders since talks collapsed between Kyprianou and Denktaş in 1985.

Yilmaz said Turkey and north Cyprus were united on policies. "We expect the leaders of the southern Cyprus Greek-Cypriot administration to understand the realities and adopt a similar constructive and positive approach," he said.

But some Western political sources said Turkish Cypriots seemed on the defensive since the Greek and Turkish prime ministers in January embarked on a course to improve relations.

Contacts

New passport regulations introduced by the north have effectively stopped already minimal contacts with Greek Cypriots. Verbal attacks by Denktaş and other Turkish Cypriot leaders against the commander of the 2,100-strong UN peace-keeping force have themselves been criticised.

Perez de Cuellar, in his report to the Security Council, noted "abuse" directed against Austrian General Günther Greindl. He expressed full support for Greindl and urged Turkey to pull out some of its troops.

A Western diplomat said a 1986 draft UN accord, which the Greek side rejected, had effectively been shelved with the latest invitation to talks without preconditions.

"Denktaş's statements are undiplomatic and hard to understand," the diplomat said. He said he doubted whether Denktaş wanted a settlement.

Denktaş for his part has said Vassiliou is destroying the hopes of the Turkish side.

"He only represents the Greek Cypriot people and that he must accept the existence of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus and its people if he wishes to unite Cyprus," he said recently.

Manigat supporters blame:

US contributed to Haiti coup

By John Reichertz

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States undercut the efforts of ousted Haiti President Leslie Manigat to consolidate power and thus contributed to the coup this week, his supporters say.

Manigat said on Thursday his government would have had a better chance against the military and more popular support if he had had access to US aid.

"We would have changed the political panorama more quickly and democracy would have resulted stronger in the face of the danger of the military," he said in Santo Domingo.

Washington cut off \$70 million in annual economic aid after presidential elections last November were aborted when 34 people were massacred at the polls.

It never restored the aid when Manigat was elected in military-run elections in January and seemed even less inclined to do so after a leading Haitian officer was indicted on a drug trafficking charge in Miami in March.

Coup

But even after Monday's coup by Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, Washington apparently is no closer to its objective of getting its hands on the indicted officer, Colonel Jean-Claude Paul.

"It looks to me that the question of Paul was more important to the United States than democracy," said a Haitian politician close to Manigat.

He said Manigat, in his handling of the Paul affair, did not want to be a puppet of the military or of the United States. The politician asked not to be identified.

Manigat, who was widely perceived to be the Army's choice in

elections held last January, was overthrown in a gun battle at the presidential palace and later deported to the Dominican Republic.

Paul, commander of a battalion based in Haiti's capital, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Miami on March 9 on charges of conspiring to smuggle cocaine into the United States.

Manigat's government, however, refused to take action against Paul, who was viewed as a Manigat supporter. The deposed leader claimed Washington had not substantiated the charges or presented a formal extradition request.

Rigged

Manigat, a political scientist, took office in February after the elections a month earlier that were widely believed to have been rigged in his favour by the military.

Edouard Piou, charge d'affaires in Washington for Manigat's government, said it may not have been fully democratic but it was a government of democrats, committed to a transition to democracy.

"This was a window of opportunity to democracy that Haiti may not find again," he said in asking Washington and democratic nations to isolate Namphy.

Federal drug agents have long viewed the Caribbean nation, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, as a busy way station for cocaine and marijuana shipments to the United States from Latin America.

But in addition to its concern for drug-trafficking, Washington has pressured Haiti to make progress toward democracy since the 1986 ouster of dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

A new chapter begins for the war-ravaged country
Afghanistan's future history may be written in blood

By Bryan Wilder

ISLAMABAD, (AP): With the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, a new chapter begins for the war-ravaged country. Like the previous one, it too may be written in blood.

For with the Soviets gone, the division between Afghan Marxism and Islam, the predominant religion, becomes even sharper and the prospect of even bloodier fighting is heightened.

On the sidelines in Pakistan and Iran are more than 5 million Afghan war refugees waiting to go back home in what will be the largest mass movement of people since World War II.

Afghans of all persuasions agree that 10 years of civil war, the past eight with Soviet involvement, have changed their country forever.

Leaders of the Muslim insurgent groups based at Peshawar in Pakistan have vowed to continue fighting until they topple the Marxist government in Kabul, the capital, and proclaim Afghanistan an Islamic republic.

The Afghan communists appear confident they can hold their own even with the Soviet military gone. While Soviet armed might is leaving, Moscow's influence remains strong in the capital of the nation that sits strategically at the Soviet Union's southern underbelly.

In a curious accord signed this spring in Geneva, the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to continue arming their respective clients until either side stops.

The April 14 agreement set the guidelines for some 103,000 Soviet troops to pull out of Afghanistan from May 15 to Feb 15, 1989.

Pakistan, which has served as conduit for mainly US arms to the guerrillas, pledged with Kabul not to interfere in each

others' affair but to work for the safe return of the refugees camped in Pakistan and Iran.

"The Geneva accord is not a peace accord in the real sense but it gives the Soviet Union a face-saving pretext to end its involvement in the war," explained a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman on the usual condition of anonymity. "The rest is up to the Afghans themselves."

The people are a tapestry of tribes and clans who were accustomed to running their own affairs before the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan seized power in a bloody April 1978 coup.

It sparked a broad rebellion among devout Muslims, tribal warlords and merchants.

Ill-suited

Soviet troops, aircraft and armour arrived in December 1979 to replace one pro-Moscow government with another. They eventually learned at a price what the United States also learned in Vietnam: that even a superpower Army is ill-suited to fight a determined guerrilla war.

Eight years of experience and growing arms supplies from the United States, China and Saudi Arabia have whipped the so-called mujahedeen rebels into a feared fighting force. They have learned to operate US Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other sophisticated weapons.

The mujahedeen, or holy warriors, already have scored a series of successes since the Soviet Army started its march home. The victories came mainly in the border regions of eastern Afghanistan where Kabul's security forces were left behind.

Since the signing of the treaty, the mujahedeen have taken nearly 100 Soviet-Afghan security posts, Western and guerrilla sources say, most of them without firing a shot.



President Najib

This month, the mujahedeen besieged the southeastern provincial capital of Kandahar, forcing some 2,000 Soviet troops to withdraw to the heavily fortified airport outside the city. On June 18, they claimed victory over their first provincial seat: Kalat in neighbouring Zabul province, cutting off the strategic 280-mile (450 km) Kandahar to Kabul road.

However, for a full victory the guerrillas would need to capture Kabul, a fortress of Soviet-built defences. It would be difficult a task for the guerrillas to seize it and overthrow the government, leaving them only with the recourse of seeking a political, rather than military, victory.

Najib, who uses one name as president and head of the ruling PDPA, refuses to discuss publicly the possibility of his defeat.

Asked recently whether he would seek refuge abroad if the guerrillas take over, the burly former chief of secret police said: "We shall not allow such a thing."

Nevertheless, Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad say their missions in Kabul have received reports of major construction under way at Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province just 36 miles (60 kms) from the Soviet border.

"New intensive construction activity sponsored by the (ruling) party has lent some credence to claims the PDPA might attempt to establish a fallback position in the north should it be unable to hold Kabul," said a statement from one Western embassy.

Most foreign observers predict the absence of the Soviets will unleash an armed power struggle on both sides of the conflict.

Najib's own party is bitterly split between his Parcham (Banner) Wing and the Khalq (Masses) faction which dominates the police and military. Even the Parchamites are divided between Najib supporters and those of former leader Babrak Karmal, whom Najib replaced in May 1986 ostensibly for health reasons.

In Peshawar, the seven major mujahedeen parties are split between Muslim revolutionaries and moderate traditionalists.

Their leaders are known to have argued to the point of drawing guns on each other, although in public they put up a united front.

Elections

A third factor is the rival guerrilla groups inside Afghanistan, who have a reputation for occasional internecine clashes.

Some observers believe the coming months will show how much loyalty guerrillas in the field have toward their Pakistan-based political leaders, some of whom have never been in combat.

Despite differences, the mujahedeen alliance has formed its own Afghan "government" based on the tenets of Islam.

Ghulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the radical Hezb-i-Islami group, said the new government is preparing to set up in the mountains west of Kabul.

He and other mujahedeen leaders stress that because they

are Sunni Muslims their government would not be comparable to the Shiite-run government of Iran.

Pir Syed Gailani, moderate leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, succeeded Hekmatyar on June 15 as rotating chairman of the seven-party mujahedeen alliance. They have since named a 14-member cabinet of an all-guerrilla interim government and called for elections among the "liberated areas" and refugee camps in Pakistan by Sept 19.

Whoever finally emerges the victor may rule a largely apathetic people.

In addition to the Afghans' tradition of local control, they will be occupied with a massive reconstruction of their homes, farms and public works.

Exodus

Some Afghans living in sun-baked refugee camps in Pakistan have begun trickling home to areas controlled by the guerrillas. But mujahedeen and foreign observers agree that the exodus probably will begin in earnest one year from now.

Hekmatyar, in a recent meeting with Western private aid groups, named four conditions for the safe return of refugees:

"The withdrawal of all Russian forces, fall of Najib's government, removal of all possibilities of war and defusing of all antipersonnel mines," he said. The bearded, turbaned Hekmatyar estimated that 5.5 million land mines planted by Soviet-Afghan troops litter the countryside from its fertile valleys to its craggy mountains. Western diplomats believe the figure is closer to 3 million.

International Red Cross hospitals along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan report an alarming increase in mine-related injuries.

The UN High Commissioner

for Refugees predicts that when the shooting finally stops, it will be followed by the greatest migration of people since Pakistan was carved from India at the end of British rule in 1947.

"There will need to be a massive rehabilitation effort," said Anthony Land, director of the UNHCR's Peshawar sub-office. He said it will be the largest such project in UN history.

Hekmatyar recently said "the whole country is in ruins. Canals and irrigation systems are badly damaged or destroyed."

Feudal

Neither Afghans nor foreign observers agree to what extent the Afghans will go back to their old feudal ways once the war is over.

Isayal Ghairad, a 34-year-old former schoolteacher from northeastern Kunar province, said the war ultimately may have a positive effect.

"It has changed the political awareness of the people," he said at his refugee camp, called Munda No. 6 near Peshawar. "Now they know about socialism, they know Hekmatyar" and other leaders.

Masood Khalili, a spokesman for the Jamiat-i-Islami guerrilla group, said the war also has been an education for his men.

"Some of these people when they left Afghanistan had never seen a postage stamp. Now they can operate complicated weapons. Their families have now seen what a city (Peshawar) looks like," he said.

In Afghanistan the war rages on but for the first time in a decade of brutal fighting, the anti-communists have sniffed victory.

"Our morale is very high and the enemy's is weak," said a guerrilla commander who uses the single name Mahmood. "We know we can win — and so do they."

Dukakis' black supporters work to drum up enthusiasm

By Catherine Arnet

BOSTON, (Reuters): While Michael Dukakis conducts delicate negotiations with rival Jesse Jackson over the Democratic presidential ticket, his supporters are working to drum up support among Jackson's black constituency.

Like most liberal Democrats, Dukakis has won the lion's share of the black vote in match-ups with Republican opponents — capturing about 98 per cent of the black vote when he was re-elected as Massachusetts governor in 1986.

But he has won only a handful of black votes in this year's presidential primaries. He made few campaign appearances in black communities, where Jackson won more than 90 per cent of the vote.

Support

Blacks, who have been the Democrats' most loyal constituency in recent years, accounted for about 20 per cent of the party's vote in the 1984 presidential election.

It is impossible to construct a realistic Democratic strategy that does not depend on the overwhelming support and strong turnout by black voters.

Some party strategists are concerned that many blacks may sit out the election unless Jackson, who ran second to Dukakis in the

nomination battle, is offered the vice-presidential nomination.

But offering Jackson the number two spot, an honour the civil rights leader says he has earned in the primaries, appears to present other problems. Jackson is disliked by many Americans and polls show a Dukakis-Jackson ticket would lose to Republican George Bush in the Nov 8 election.

Dukakis' black backers predict their man will ultimately win over unhappy Jackson supporters who will opt for Dukakis rather than four more years of Republican government.

Dukakis says he hears that same message. "They all want to win. They don't want another four years of what they've had for the past eight," Dukakis says when asked if he will lose black support unless Jackson is his running mate.

Terrified

Campaign secretary Joseph Warren, Dukakis' chief liaison with the black community, said this of his fellow blacks: "Those people are terrified of Bush. They see the start of a reversal (under President Reagan) of all the civil rights gains of the past 30 years back to the separate but equal doctrine and they are afraid Bush won't change that."

But Mel King, a community

activist in Boston who is firmly in the Jackson camp, thinks Dukakis must offer more to blacks than a chance to reject Bush.

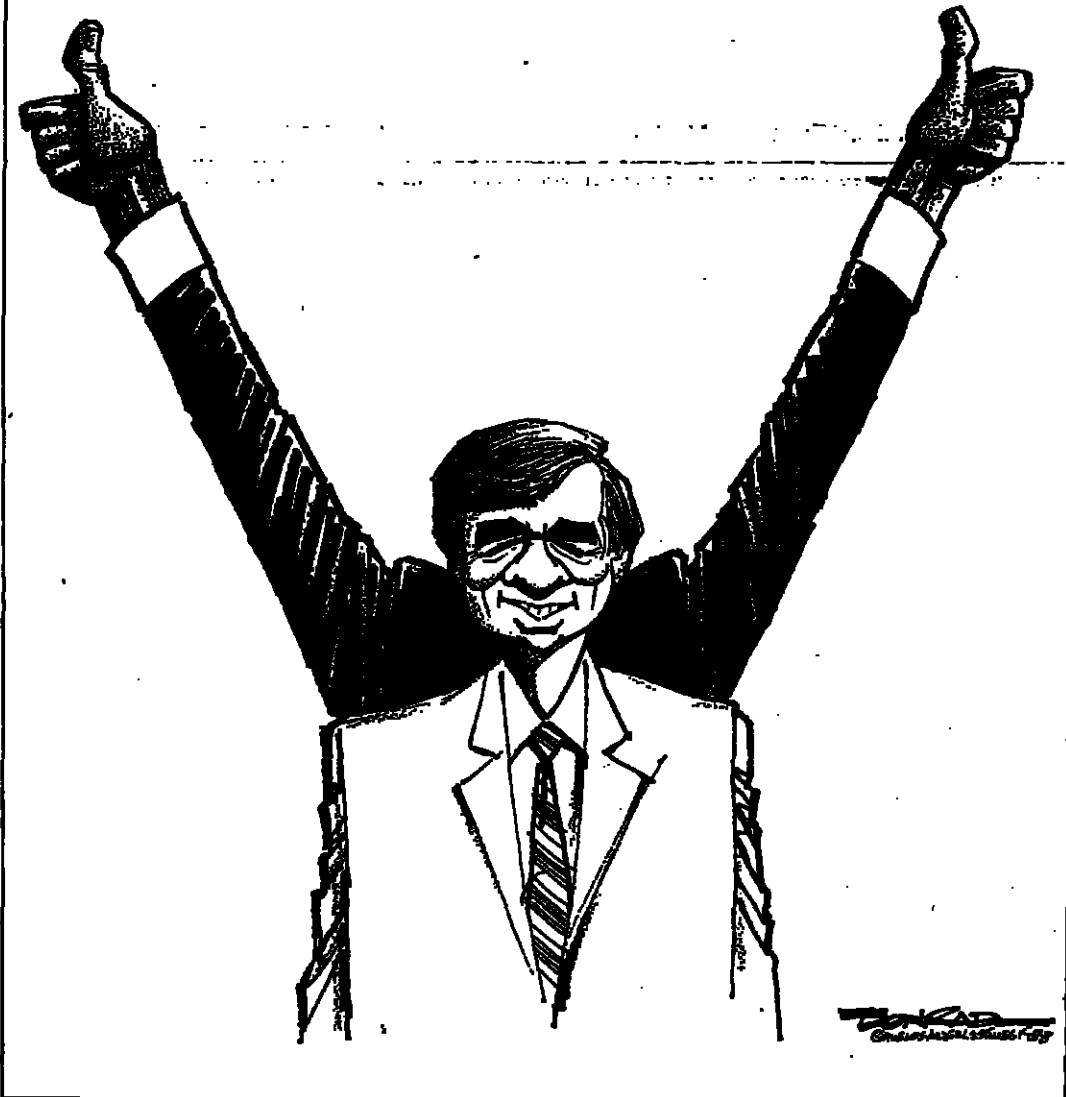
For blacks to be motivated to vote for Dukakis in November, "they have got to hear that he is going to move the country in a different direction from where it's been," King said. "I haven't heard anything yet that indicates that he would do that."

Dukakis' biggest problem, his supporters say, is that he is virtually unknown to blacks outside of Massachusetts. He was not active in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, he has made economic issues rather than social programmes the centre of his campaign and he made few appearances in minority communities.

Dukakis does have the strong backing of many black leaders in Massachusetts, who say that he may lack Jackson's passion but he shares Jackson's convictions.

"He's not your classic liberal," said Warren, voicing a sentiment heard over and over again from Dukakis' minority supporters. "He's just a fair guy. He has an extraordinary record of fairness."

Alex Rodriguez, director of the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination, agreed: "He's not super radical on civil rights. But he's always comfortable on dealing with different groups of people."



By Nejla Sammakia

AKUADIM, Western Sahara, (AP): Leaders and guerrilla fighters of the Polisario Independence Movement are privately conceding that they have little hope of military victory in their 12-year-old desert war against Morocco.

But while the military stalemate over the western Sahara continues and guerrilla leaders begin to talk of compromise, refugees in the teeming Polisario camps remain keyed up for war. Army training begins in primary school and signs defiantly proclaim "the entire nation or martyrdom."

Defeat

Since 1980, Morocco, which claims the western Sahara and controls much of it, has built a 1,500-mile (2,400-km) defensive wall of rock and sand, studded with concrete bunkers and American-made sensors around the Moroccan zone. Almost the entire 100,000-man Moroccan Army is deployed along the wall, and guerrilla attacks inside the 70,000 square-mile (about 150,000 square-km) Moroccan-controlled territory have virtually stopped.

Talking to visiting Western reporters, Polisario guerrillas admit their bitter "liberation struggle" has degenerated into a series of brief hit-and-run

Polisario's war mentality persists

Hopes for military victory ebb

assaults on Moroccan defenses.

Bachir Sayed, a member of Polisario's seven-member executive committee, told the visitors: "We don't want to defeat Morocco. We want to create a different situation... That will bring (Morocco's) King Hassan II to the bargaining table."

Algeria and its neighbour, Morocco, restored diplomatic relations in May after a 12-year confrontation over Algeria's support for the independence struggle in the 104,000 square-mile (160,000 square-km) former Spanish colony.

Checkpoint

The reconciliation was a bitter blow to Polisario. Since 1975, the Marxist-led guerrillas fought from sanctuaries in Algeria and Mauritania against Morocco's annexation of the mineral-rich wilderness. Until recently, they refused to talk of any acceptable solution short of total independence.

Algerian officials are hinting now that Polisario might accept some kind of autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty, but there was no official confirmation from the guerrillas.

The guerrillas' main sanctuary lies in the stark, hilly desert around the Algerian oasis of Tindouf, where they have created a virtual Polisario-land sheltered from Moroccan attacks.

The last Algerian checkpoint is five kilometres (three miles) outside Tindouf. After that come the camps for more than 100,000 refugees, then long stretches of sand and shrub. This is the battle zone leading to the wall.

Polisario has built hospitals and military schools in its sanctuary, but the guerrillas say they intended to abandon the area whenever they return to the Moroccan-held phosphate mines and fishing ports on the Atlantic coast.

When Spanish colonial rule ended in 1975, the territory's population comprised 80,000 tribal nomads roaming the desert with their camels and goats.

Polisario claims to have 16,000 heavily armed guerrillas operating in the desert. Moroccan officers estimate their strength at fewer than 4,000 men.

Abba Deddi, a 34-year-old soldier — he was not yet a teenager when the war began — said he could not imagine life other

than as a guerrilla.

"I want to remain a soldier even after the liberation, to fight against any new colonialist attempts," he said.

Verity

From Tindouf, reporters were driven for five hours across the featureless desert. They had not independent means of verifying their escorts' assertion they were in Akudim, which does not appear on available maps.

A group of uniformed guerrillas played cards on a blanket, surrounded by empty artillery shells scattered on the sand. They were desert men, ranging from 18-year-old recruits to veterans of the Spanish Foreign Legion.

Military trucks rumbled by, and a jeep mounted with a 23mm anti-aircraft gun was parked under a tree. Artillery fire thudded in the distance as the Moroccans responded to an attack on the wall by another Polisario unit.

The firing stopped abruptly. "That's all," said Omar Mohammed, the unit commander. "We give them 10 minutes every two or three hours. It keeps them on their toes."

Taiwan party congress

Democracy on trial

By Andrew Browne

TAIPEI, (Reuters): Democracy is on trial in Taiwan as the ruling Nationalist Party prepares for a congress next week to chart the course of the island's political and economic future.

The 13th party congress will determine whether the 2.5-million-member party will sink or swim with the tides of democratic change that have swept Taiwan since the last full session in 1981.

Before he died in January, President Chiang Kai-shek unleashed the forces of democracy after almost four decades of strongman rule under himself and his father, the late Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

His successor, Lee Teng-hui, is left with a party full of retainers who arrived from China with the defeated Nationalist government in 1949.

"This congress will close the chapter on the Chiang Dynasty. Now we will see how the Nationalists turn the pages over," said Antonio Chiang, a magazine publisher and respected political

commentator.

From their seclusion in the secretive corridors of power in Taipei, the Nationalist old guard has watched as people challenge a party that imposed its rule with force and maintained it under martial law.

Symbolising the new militancy, angry farmers last month stormed parliament, a bastion of Nationalist power, to protest against the policies of a government that they maintain is deaf to their problems.

Farmers, workers, students and businessmen have aired their grievances in hundreds of small demonstrations. Strikers have sporadically paralysed the national railway system and production at many leading companies.

Under martial law, dropped only last year, they could have been jailed. Democracy requires that the government sit up and listen, or lose votes.

"We have to get to know the feelings of society. We are under pressure from the electorate," said Lin Yuan-Lang, one of a new generation of young elected Nationalist legislators that is changing the face of the party.

By Patricia A. Taylor

Exotic topiary, outdoor 'rooms', cozy gazebos

Creating art in a garden



Topiary in the shape of teapots flank this path in the Blue Garden.

NORTHAM, E. Sussex, England: It's encouraging to know that three of England's greatest gardens were created largely by amateurs.

Great Dixter in E. Sussex, Sissinghurst in Kent, and Hidcote in Gloucestershire consist of a series of outdoor "rooms." These are relatively small spaces enclosed by green hedges or rustic stone walls and filled with groupings of colourful flowers and shrubs — which will begin blooming soon.

The overall settings are spectacular. But because the gardens consist of manageable divisions, they offer practical suggestions for those with even the tiniest of flower beds. All provide sumptuous scenery for gardeners and non-gardeners alike.

Great Dixter, eight miles north of Rye, is still being fashioned by Christopher Lloyd, one of its creators. Lloyd is a connoisseur collector of plants who loves to test new hybrids and play with colour combinations. This gardener is also a premier writer, describing his garden's triumphs and failures in books, columns and articles.

Great Dixter's design was laid out almost 80 years ago by Edwin Lutyens, a turn-of-the-century architect whose influence on garden structure is still felt today. At the time Sir Edwin began to practice, garden style dictated vast panoramas of field and woodland.

He proceeded to reduce this scope and reintroduced the concept of formal design, using the roomlike divisions that had been popular from Roman through Tudor times. In doing so, he made it possible for those with smaller plots of land to aspire to artistic achievement in the garden.

Distinct

At Great Dixter, Lutyens laid out 18 distinct compartments. These were filled with topiary, a typical accompaniment to a "room garden," and then planted by Lloyd's mother. It was she who filled one "room" with antique roses and who had young Christopher help her plant the meadow garden with a splash of bulbs and wildflowers.

While Lloyd has left some of his mother's plantings intact, other "garden rooms" at Great

Dixter form a hot house of horticultural experimentation. This laboratory aspect can best be appreciated in the famous Long Border, a brilliant tapestry of plants measuring 70 yards in length and five in depth.

Best seen from the month of June on through the summer months, this magnificent garden planting is an ever-changing, riotous colour mixture of perennials, annuals, bulbs, small shrubs and even trees — something to be seen?

In contrast to the evolving plantings at Great Dixter, those at Sissinghurst — less than an hour's drive to the northwest — are a static but living monument to Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson.

The diaries and letters of this couple (particularly as depicted in the book "Portrait of a Marriage") have chronicled their nontraditional, but highly cultured and literate lives. However, their petty affairs can be boring and make one wonder what was so special about this man and woman.

A visit to Sissinghurst supplies the answer: It is a stunning

work of art, created by two individuals who had no formal horticultural training.

They acquired Sissinghurst in 1930. It consisted of some ruined buildings and rubbish-strewn fields. "I saw what might be made of it," Sackville-West wrote. "It was Sleeping Beauty's garden — a garden crying out for rescue." The two were to spend the next 30 years answering that cry.

Harold Nicolson designed the garden, and she planted it. He favoured the formal approach advocated by Edwin Lutyens (a close friend of his mother-in-law), and created an austere geometric layout. He extended the concept of "room gardens" and used borders of clipped boxwood hedges to create "rooms" within "rooms" in many of the nine garden spaces.

Sackville-West then gave full play to her romantic impulses in planting her husband's design. She copied the old cottage garden style — lush, crowded arrangements of many different flowers — and added the idea of themes. Thus, she created the White Garden, des-

cribed as "the most beautiful garden at Sissinghurst, and indeed of all England." Every flower in this garden — fragrant roses, woolly lambs' ears, dusty millers, and many more — is either white or gray.

Each "room" has its own special motif. In early spring, for example, the Lime Walk is garishly filled with the reds, blues, yellows, and whites of daffodils, forget-me-nots, anemones, and bluebells. This part of the garden then rests while others — such as the herb and rose gardens — come into their own in the warmer months.

Sackville-West was protective of Sissinghurst. When it was first proposed in 1954 that she give the garden to the National Trust, she vehemently wrote in her diary, "Never, never, never!" But when she died in 1962, the family couldn't afford to pay the estate taxes, and the property came under Trust auspices.

The enigmatic creator of Hidcote, Lawrence Johnston, on the other hand, was the first person to donate such a property to the National Trust.

He did so in 1948, packed up his baggage and his dachshunds, and moved to southern France, leaving England and his magnificent garden forever.

Johnston is always referred to as "the American," but he was so in parentage only. He was born and raised in Paris, and attended Cambridge University. Johnston became a British citizen in 1900 and acquired Hidcote in 1907, when he was 36.

Surroundings

There was nothing surrounding the hilltop Cotswold mansion, 35 miles northwest of Oxford, but simple farm land. Out of this, Johnston fashioned a masterpiece.

One of Hidcote's charms is that individual flower varieties are planted in small groups and then surrounded with grandiose atmospheres. Thus, the Pillar Garden is enclosed by immense sculptured pillars of yew, while one of its borders is a simple mixture of mock orange shrubs, purple lavender, and yucca plants.

As Sackville-West wrote in 1949, the 21 or so gardens at Hidcote appeal "alike to the advanced gardener in search of rare or interesting plants, and on the aesthetic side to the mere lover of beauty." Where Johnston got his ideas from and why he implemented them as he did are mysteries.

He had money, which always helps. And as his passion for gardening grew, he became more knowledgeable — going on plant expeditions to South Africa in 1927 and China in 1931, and creating his own hybrids, such as Hidcote Lavender. Though he treasured, indeed insisted upon his privacy, he entertained many of the beau monde. He is supposed to have designed Edith Wharton's Paris garden.

Under National Trust sponsorship, Hidcote's beauty is scrupulously maintained. In addition to its exotic topiary and theme borders, it features sweeping lawns, meandering streams, brick walks, a raised pool, and cozy gazebos. From spring through fall, there is always something of interest for even the most casual of visitors. It is somewhat ironic, however, to realise that this grandest of English "room gardens" was created by a man with an American inheritance and a French background.

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.



The Syrian rose, one of the East's most important roses, is in slow retreat as residents of Damascus favour cheaper imports.

Rosa Damascena in peril

By Issam Hamza

DAMASCUS, (Reuters): The scented oil of Rosa Damascena is among the most valued in the world, and its beauty is adored by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas — but the pale red flower is in slow retreat.

Syria's national rose, which traditionally crowded the large gardens of Damascus is being beaten back by advancing tides of more profitable flowers and concrete.

Sameer Sham'a, a specialist in flower arrangement, said the rose is being removed from city gardens as residents favoured cheaper imported roses bred in nurseries to growing their own.

Flowers, and especially roses, have an exceptional place in the hearts of many Syrians, particularly in Damascus where large classical Arab villas had courtyard gardens and were surrounded by flower-beds.

But with the increase of the capital's population to more

than three million people, much garden space has been taken over by new homes.

Even the public Ghouta Gardens around the capital, believed by some to have been the site of Adam and Eve's paradise, have lost territory to tarmac and concrete.

Saeed Al Kour, who has owned a nursery in the suburbs for some 40 years, gave another reason for the rose's disappearance.

"It flowers only once a year, from mid-April for about a month, so Rosa Damascena has proved unprofitable for dealers, who prefer roses to flower for longer periods."

The decline in the rose's numbers has made its strongly scented oil, which is used to create perfumes, more expensive. Kour said a litre of Rosa Damascena oil could sell for around 30,000 dollars.

Damascus' close links with scented flowers may date back to before 64 B.C., when a

Roman Army captured the settlement.

Some experts say the name Damascus derives from the Latin "duo muscus" or double musk and was given to the city because of the heady smell of its flowers and gardens.

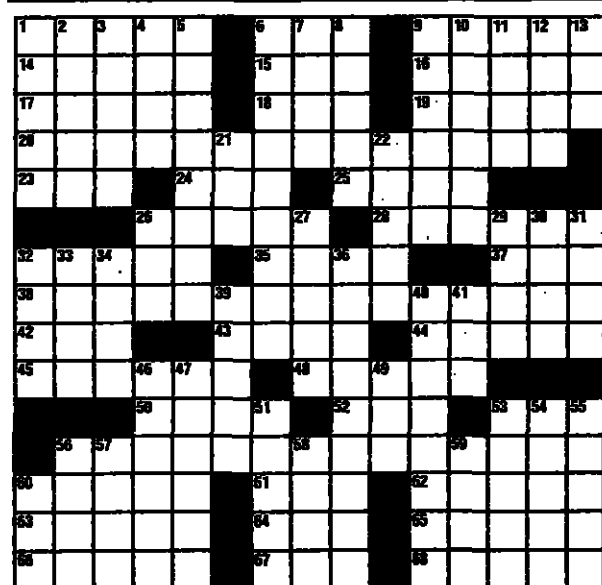
The rose, however, has a powerful ally in Major-General Tlas, who joined the fight for its survival by producing a book titled "Rosa Damascena" with photographs of Syria's roses.

"Despite my devotion and attachment to the gun, the rose did not disappear from my eye for a second," Tlas wrote in the introduction to his book.

"When the Tourism Ministry held its first flowers fair in Damascus, I was among the first to come with my second weapon, the camera."

His book features hundreds of photographs of flowers taken by him throughout Syria and Tlas says the Damascus rose is one of the East's most important roses.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Toothed wheels
 - Obstinate one
 - of one's eye
 - Odalisque's home
 - Moon jumper?
 - Punctuation mark
 - Type of acid
 - Samuel's teacher
 - Social rank
 - Put someone's — in it
 - Chemistry suffix
 - Attempt
 - Examine
 - Donahue and namesakes
 - Mans the wheel
 - Talus
 - Goodies for a spread
 - Court
 - Source of constant irritation
 - Sass
 - Ralph —
 - Australian pediatrician
 - Rodeo necessity
 - Eyelike spots on peacock feathers
 - M.A.'S.H. role
 - Klin
 - Sound of rebuke
 - Total
 - Irritate
 - Scroll of the Pentateuch
 - Hawaiian wreath
 - Please greatly
 - Egg-shaped
 - Resinous substance
 - More confident
- DOWN**
- Moray fisherman
 - Grads-to-be
 - Future blooms
 - London area
 - Normandy town
 - Stylish
 - Strong cord
 - Staged effects
 - Type of setter
 - State of being level
 - Malayan gibbon
 - Like an oak leaf
 - Shaving need
 - The Smothers Brothers, for one
 - Relates
 - Not in the dark
 - Saw socially
 - Coloring workers
 - Wander about
 - River to the Caspian
 - Erode
 - Muddle
 - Kicker's asset

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BAIT PANSY DRAIT
OPRY IRATE REDO
BEER NADIA AMOK
JOHN BARRYMORE
FSU OAS EATEN
CADDY ARMA EDS
ARGO INDIANS
GEORGEACUSTER
ROOSTED AXES
ASS ARTE LYCEE
BLIND BAY IKE
JAMES J. CORBETT
EVIL ARRAY HILLO
CELL MEANS ENID
TREY BENDS OGLE

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠Q76 ♠93 ♦KQ10 ♣A10873
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ 2 ♦ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK10762 ♠AJ93 ♠72 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠83 ♠QJ762 ♦Q106 ♣J73
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK2 ♠98 ♦J76 ♣QJ632
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠9 ♠AQ106 ♦AQJ6 ♣J985
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three hearts. What action do you take?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠9853 ♠762 ♦AK852 ♣3
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♥ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You should try to ensure you do not say or do anything you might come to regret. You will have to make a greater effort to learn something new. You should not be late for an appointment. Be more approachable.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You must have the courage of your convictions. You should not allow yourself to be dissuaded too easily. Try to concentrate on doing something more positive. Be more tidy.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
You should stick to what is strictly practical. Do all you can to avoid making a complicated situation even worse. Correct mistakes as you go along instead of waiting until the end. Be tactful.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
A friend of yours will need and appreciate your sympathy. A decision you have been putting off cannot be delayed much longer. Make sure you get sufficient exercise. Be frank.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
Avoid doing anything of which you know your partner would not approve. Make sure your car is in good condition, particularly where the brakes are concerned. You would do well to make a few concessions. Be reasonable.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You will have a good idea which will help you to deal with a current problem. Do not spend too much time reminiscing about the past. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be tactful.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You will be able to use a recently acquired skill to your advantage. Have a little more consideration for others. Your should do your utmost to maintain harmony with your partner. Be generous.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You will find it easier to make up your mind. You will tend to be rather dejected and should do what you can to cheer yourself up. Avoid doing the first thing that comes to your mind. Be sensible.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You should try to show a little more goodwill towards others. This is going to be a busy day so make sure you do not either or waste time. You should not be too hard on others. Be resilient.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
A change that is not to your liking will have to be lived with. You should try not to allow work to spoil your private life. You should not place too much trust in someone you do not know all that well. Be loyal.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
Avoid relying too much on your intuitions and instincts. You should not allow some small obstacle to get in your way or to dissuade you. Make sure you get all the rest you need. Be flexible.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You should make sure you do not break a promise. Try to avoid entering into any onerous commitments just now. Do all you can to avoid causing confusion. Be a little more optimistic.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior Readers,

There is probably not one of us who has not at some time wished for more, better or different things. If we have five dresses, we still think we need another five; if we have a nice car, we want a nicer one; if we have straight hair, we want it curly; if we have curly hair, we want it straight!

Most of the time, we understand that we cannot have the best of everything, but sometimes we feel jealous and that can make us sad and even angry because we cannot get what we want.

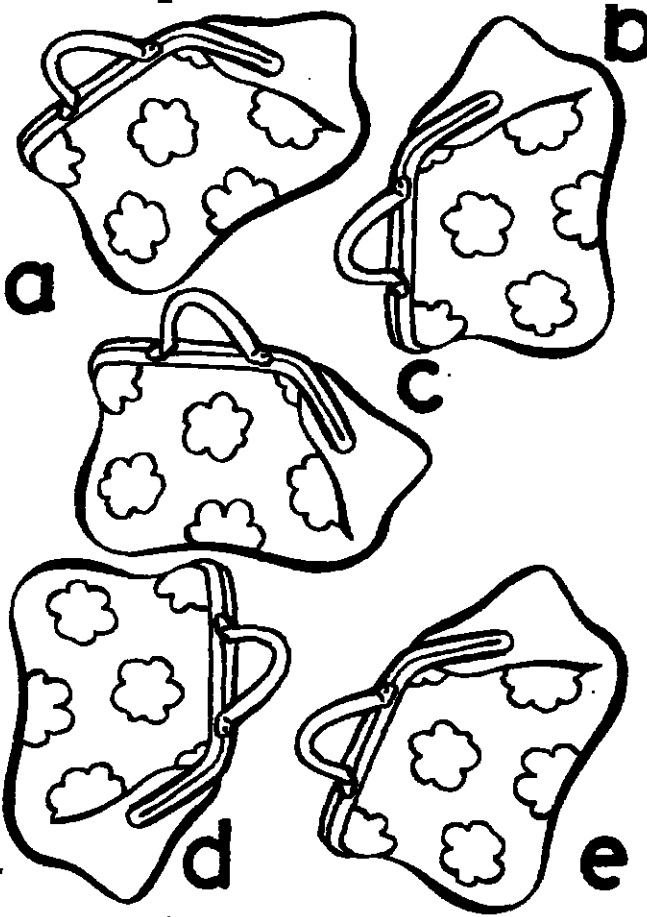
We have to remember that the world is full of all kinds of different people and wherever we go, we will find someone who is richer and someone who is poorer; someone who is cleverer and someone who is not as clever; someone who is better-looking and someone who is not as good-looking.

We should all be thankful for what we have, because we all have something. I do not only mean the kind of things we can buy in shops. Your friend may have a personal computer, but can he play football as well as you can? Your parents' neighbours may have a bigger house, but are they as happy as your mum and dad? Your cousin may have a pretty face, but was she top of the class in the exams?

Be happy with what you have, what you can do and what you are and think of these things whenever you start to feel unhappy because you cannot have more, better or different.

Aurille Jayne

Spot the difference



By the Brothers Grimm

A SOLDIER had served a king his master many years, till at last he was dismissed without pay or reward. How he should earn his living he did not know, so he set out and journeyed homeward all day in a very downcast mood until in the evening he came to the edge of a deep wood. As the road led that way, he pushed forward, but had not gone far before he saw a light glimmering through the trees, towards which he made his way, and soon came to a hut where no one lived but an old witch. The poor fellow begged for a night's lodging and something to eat and drink; but she would listen to nothing; however, he was not easily got rid of, and at last she said, 'I think I will take pity on you this once; but if I do you must dig over all my garden for me in the morning.' The soldier agreed very willingly to anything she asked, and he became her guest.

The next day he kept his word and dug the garden very neatly. The job lasted all day, and in the evening, when his mistress would have sent him away, he said, 'I am so tired of my work that I must beg you to let me stay another night.' The old lady vowed at first she would not do any such thing, but after a great deal of talk he carried his point, agreeing to chop up a whole cart-load of wood for her the next day.

This task too was duly ended, but not till towards night; and then he found himself so tired, that he begged a third night's rest. And this too was given, but only on his pledging his word that the next day he would fetch the witch the blue light that burnt at the bottom of the well.

When morning came she led him to the well's

The blue light



mouth, tied him to a long rope, and let him down. At the bottom sure enough he found the blue light as the witch had said, and at once made the signal for her to draw him up again. But when she had pulled him up so near to the top that she could reach him with her hands, she said: 'Give me the light, I will take care of it,' — meaning to play him a trick, by taking it for herself and letting him fall again to the bottom of the well. But the soldier saw through her wicked thoughts, and said: 'No, I shall not give you the light till I find myself safe and sound out of the well.' At this she became very angry, and dashed him, with the light she had longed for many years, down to the bottom. And there lay the poor soldier for a while in despair, on the damp mud below, and feared that his end had come. But his pipe happened to be in his

pocket still half-full, and he thought to himself, 'I may as well make an end of smoking you out; it is the last pleasure I shall have in this world.' So he lit at the blue light, and began to smoke.

Up rose a cloud of smoke, and suddenly a peculiar black dwarf was seen making his way through the midst of it. 'What do you want with me, soldier?' said he. 'I have no business with you,' he answered. But the dwarf said 'I am bound to serve you in everything, as lord and master of the blue light.' 'Then first of all be so good as to help me out of this well,' no sooner said than done: the dwarf took him by the hand and drew him up and the blue light of course with him. 'Now do me another piece of kindness,' said the soldier: 'Pray let that old lady take my place in the well.' When the dwarf had done this,

and lodged the witch safely at the bottom, they began to ransack her treasures; and the soldier carried off as much of her gold and silver as he could. Then dwarf said, 'If you should chance at any time to want me, you have nothing to do but light your pipe at the blue light, and I will soon be with you.'

The soldier was greatly pleased at his good luck, and went into the best inn in the first town he came to, and ordered some fine clothes to be made and a handsome room to be got ready for him. When all was ready, he called his little man to him, and said, 'The king sent me away penniless, and left me to hunger and need: I have a mind to show him that it is my turn to be master now; so bring me his daughter here this evening, that she may wait upon me, and do what I bid her.' That is

rather a dangerous task, said the dwarf. But away he went, took the princess out of her bed, fast asleep as she was, and brought her to the soldier.

Very early in the morning he carried her back; and as soon as she saw her father, she said, 'I had a strange dream last night: I thought I was carried away through the air to a soldier's house, and there I waited upon him as his servant.' Then the king wondered greatly at such a story, but told her to make a hole in her pocket and fill it with peas, so that if it were really as she said, and the whole was not a dream, the peas might fall out in the streets as she passed through, and leave a clue to tell where she had been taken. She did so; but the dwarf had heard the king's plot; and when evening came, and the soldier said he must bring him the princess again, he strewed peas over several of the streets, so that the few that fell from her pocket were not known from the others; and the people amused themselves all the next day picking up peas, and wondering where so many came from.

When the princess told her father what had happened to her the second time, he said, 'Take one of your shoes with you, and hide it in the room you are taken to.' The dwarf heard this also; and when the soldier told him to bring the king's daughter again he said, 'I cannot save you this time; it will be unlucky thing for you if you are found out — as I think you will.' But the soldier would have his own way. 'Then you must take care and make the best of your way out of the city gate very early in the morning.'

The princess kept one shoe on her as her father bid her, and hid it in the soldier's room. And when

she got back to her father, he ordered it to be sought for all over the town, and at last it was found where she had hid it. The soldier had run away, it is true, but he had been too slow, and was soon caught and thrown into a strong prison. What was worse, in the hurry of his flight, he had left behind his great treasure, the blue light and all his gold, and had only one coin in his pocket.

As he was standing very sorrowful at the prison grating, he saw one of his comrades, and calling out to him said, 'if you will bring a little bundle I left in the inn, I will give you a silver coin.' His comrade thought this very good pay for such a job: so he went away, and soon came back bringing the blue light and the gold. Then the soldier soon lit his pipe: up rose the smoke, and with it came his old friend the little dwarf. 'Do not fear, master,' said he: 'Keep up your heart at your trial and leave everything to take its course; only mind to take the blue light with you.' The trial soon came. The prisoner was found guilty, and was ordered to be hanged on the gallows tree.

But as he was let out, he said he had one favour to get of the king. 'What is it?' said His Majesty. 'That you will let me smoke one pipe on the road.' 'Two, if you like,' said the king. Then he let his pipe at the blue light, and the black dwarf was before him in a moment. 'Be so good as to kill, slay, or put to flight all these people,' said the soldier, 'and as for the king, you may cut him into three pieces.' Then the dwarf began to lay about him, and soon got rid of the crowd; but the king begged hard for mercy, and to save his life, agreed to let the soldier have the princess for his wife, and to make him his heir.

When the fish began to resemble modern varieties

In the days of the huge reptiles of 200 to 100 million years ago, life in the sea became very different. The armoured fish disappeared, perhaps destroyed by the voracious selachii, ancestors of the modern sharks.

The cartilaginous, or gristly fish (sharks, rays, chimaeras) whose skeletons are not made of bone but of a softer substance called cartilage, multiplied considerably and grew to enormous sizes. The bony fish then spread gradually, too, and branched out into a great variety of species.

Practically all the kinds of bony fish which inhabit the oceans today had already appeared about 100 million years ago and there has been little change in them since. There are more species of bony fish in the world than of any other vertebrate animal; 30,000 is probably an underestimate. They vary greatly in structure as well as in size and colour.

When the Great Age of Reptiles began

Dinosaurs were gigantic reptiles which lived on the Earth in the Mesozoic Era of nearly 100 million years. They had evolved from the small amphibians who had so laboriously left the sea in the Devonian and Carboniferous Periods.

As soon as some of the amphibians learned how to produce hard-shelled eggs, they were able to do without the water where

When life began



they had originally been compelled to lay their eggs. That was when the first reptiles were born and it happened about 300 million years ago, in the Carboniferous Period of the Palaeozoic Era.

The first reptile was probably the Seymouria, quite a small animal. A geological expedition in 1969 discovered that it had spread as far as the area which is now the South Pole. The most ancient reptiles also included the first giants, such as the Moschops, which was some 2 metres long.

The reptiles quickly multiplied all over the Earth, splitting up into numerous different groups. One of the most important was that of the small Saltoposuchus, the first reptile capable of walking on its hind-legs.

From it, all the great dinosaurs were later evolved.

The tortoises and other small reptiles also made their appearance in this period. Their inconspicuous shapes would have passed unnoticed had not another extremely important group of animals — the lizards and snakes of today — been derived from them.

Some of the major groups of animals which have come down to the present day therefore have their forerunners in the start of the Mesozoic Era. Even the mammals have a direct ancestor in those far-off days. It was the Cynognathus, which was probably the first animal to have warm blood in its veins.

When the largest reptiles became extinct
About 75 million years

ago, almost without warning, the largest reptiles disappeared from the face of the Earth. The rock strata formed in later periods do not contain a single fossil of these animals. What brought about such an unexpected disappearance? How could the huge dinosaurs, who had dominated the Earth undisputed for nearly 100 million years, suddenly vanish without a trace?

Scientists have often tried to explain what happened, but none of their suggestions seem wholly convincing, although there are three which are more acceptable than the rest.

Firstly, the change of climate. As so many mountain chains were lifted up the climate changed completely. The differences in the seasons became very noticeable and the dinosaurs, used to an even temperature, succumbed to the cold, dry weather.

Secondly, the evolution of the plants. The forests became overgrown by large, wood-trunked trees which replaced the herbaceous plants. As these had been the dinosaurs' favourite food, they died of hunger.

Thirdly, the appearance of the rodent mammals. These small, intelligent animals, began to feed on the dinosaurs' eggs. The dinosaurs did not protect their eggs after they had laid them and buried them, and so the eggs were easy prey for these little animals. They gnawed at so many dinosaurs' eggs that they made the giants extinct.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

THE MAN TO WHOM MOST STATUES HAVE BEEN RAISED IS THE INDIAN PRINCE SIDDHARTHA GAITAMA (c. 563-483 BC), WHOSE TEACHINGS FORMED THE BASIS OF BUDDHISM.

Drawn by DICK MILLINGTON



Why is New York's sky clearer than London's?
Because New York has more skyscrapers.

Housewife to salesman: 'I suppose you've had plenty of doors slammed on you?'
Salesman: 'No, lady, my face has always been like this.'

1st Snake: 'I'm glad I am not a poisonous snake.'

2nd Snake: 'Why?'
1st Snake: 'Because I have just bitten my tongue.'

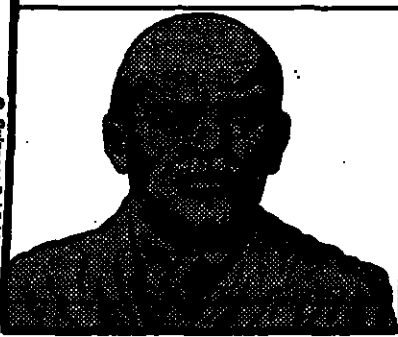
How do you tell if there's been an elephant in your fridge?
Footprints in the butter.

Why don't they grow bananas any longer?
Because they are quite long enough already.

Who invented the steam engine?
Watt's-his-name.

How do you find out where a flea has bitten you?
Start from scratch.

THE 20TH CENTURY STATUE CHAMPION IS VLADIMIR LENIN (1870-1924) BUSTS OF WHOM HAVE BEEN MASS PRODUCED.



THE WORLD RECORD FOR RAISING TO ONESELF 1000 SETS BY SERIALS: SERGIO OR. RAFAEL. SERENOS. TRILLIO Y. MOLINA (NEW-YORK) FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IN MARCH 1960 A COUNT REVEALED THAT THERE WERE OVER 2000. TRILLIO WAS ASSASSINATED ON 30 MAY 1961 AND 30 DAYS LATER A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.



Crack the code

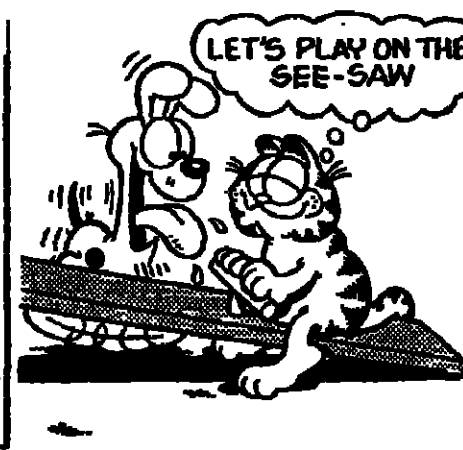
Inspector Cluefinder has just discovered this secret message left behind by an international spy. Using the secret code printed below, see if you can work out what the message says. Fill in the boxes as you go along.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| A = B | J = K | S = T |
| B = C | K = L | T = U |
| C = D | L = M | U = V |
| D = E | M = N | V = W |
| E = F | N = O | W = X |
| F = G | O = P | X = Y |
| G = H | P = Q | Y = Z |
| H = I | Q = R | Z = A |
| I = J | R = S | |

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| S G D | O Z B J Z F D | H R |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| V Z H S H M F | H M | K N M C N M |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| H M R O D B S N Q | B K T D E H M C D Q | H R |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Z E S D Q | L D | R N |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | H' L | N E E I |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Now write your own name in code in the space below.

Solution on Thursday



SAT: 1137

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Kuwait stock market budget approved

KUWAIT'S Commerce and Industry Minister and Chairman of the Stock Exchange Market Committee Faisal Al Khaled said the market's budget for the coming fiscal year was approved by the committee yesterday.

The minister said, in a statement to KUNA, that the committee agreed to register the National Investment Company at the market as of July 9.

Al Khaled said that companies wishing to be part of the bourse must have a capital of no less than KD 5 million, and the committee can exclude any company which its activities do not require that kind of capital.

In order to be eligible for registration with the market, companies must have been in existence for no less than three years and have issued at least three audited budgets.

He added that the company's

board of directors must agree to its enlistment with the market and that it submits the approval of the specialised government institution if it performs activities of special nature.

Moreover, the company must have realised an average profit of six per cent during the past three years and has distributed cash dividends of no less than five per cent in the last year preceding the registration unless this condition was exempted by the committee.

The company should vow to increase its capital by 10 per cent or more in case it was accepted in the market and that old shareholders concede their right of subscription in the company's surplus shares.

Companies with capitals of KD 10 million and more and with no less than 200 stockholders are exempted from the above condition.

Cabinet declares support for Oteiba's oil policy

UAE calls for higher production quota

ABU DHABI, June 27, (AP): The government of the UAE today declared support for Oil Minister Mana Saeed Oteiba's oil policy, including a call for a hike in the country's OPEC-decreed production quota.

The official news agency WAM said that, at its weekly meeting, the cabinet "reasserted the firm oil policy of the UAE especially the stand regarding production and prices, which was declared by the minister of petroleum and mineral resources following the OPEC sessions held in Vienna."

Oteiba had declared after the June 11-14 ministerial sessions of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries that the UAE's quota of 948,000 barrels a day was too low.

"Our official quota is 1.5 million barrels per day," the

UAE minister said at the time.

Oteiba had also recapitulated extensively on the inter-OPEC deliberations across the years, saying that Saudi Arabia, the leading OPEC member, has promised his country a 1.5-million-barrel quota since the early 1980's.

Industry sources said the UAE consistently produces more than its OPEC quota and for some of last year was producing more than 1.5 million BPD.

The cabinet made its statement after discussing a report by Oteiba on the Vienna conference, which ended with all states agreeing to abide by their existing quotas until the end of this year.

Oteiba said after the conference that the UAE would seek to raise its quota at OPEC's next meeting in November.

In an interview in Rabat with Moroccan Television, he said the UAE deserved a higher quota because of the size of its reserves, which he put at 220 billion barrels.

The government had previously put reserves at 97 billion barrels, which oil industry sources said was an optimistic figure.

Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members believe that adhering to quotas allotted to the members — excluding Iraq — and to a collective production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels a day would protect the present \$18 benchmark price.

Rejected

Iraq, which rejected its quota of 1.54 million barrels a day, is producing an estimated 2.6 million barrels per day, insisting its output should be at par with that of its Gulf war enemy, Iran.

Saudi criticism of Oteiba's statements and a revamping of oil administrations in Abu Dhabi had spurred speculation that the UAE oil minister's position was weakening.

Oil sources interpreted the UAE cabinet's statement as an implicit denial of such speculation.

Revamping

The revamping had involved closure of the Abu Dhabi petroleum department which he chaired and transforming it into a newly created supreme oil council on which he was named a member.

The council is headed by the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"The statement strengthened Oteiba's position as one of the oil policy makers in the UAE," said an oil industry official.

World Business Summary

Agip completes offshore oil production project

LAGOS, June 27, (OPECNA): Agip Energy and Natural Resources of Nigeria has completed construction work on its first offshore production project. According to company managing director Domenico Esposito, the jacket and top-side facilities of the \$375-million project will be installed this week.

Addressing journalists after they were taken round the Aghara oilfield, about 60 km southwest of Brass in Rivers State, he said crude production would begin as soon as the current drilling programme was complete. He said the top-side facilities would include living quarters, oil flow stations and all necessary production equipment. The company was also preparing to lay a 30.50 cm submarine pipeline to transport oil from the site to Brass for storage and export. According to Esposito, the oilfield holds reserves of around 60 million barrels and will be capable of producing 40,000 B/D. The jacket was constructed in Nigeria by 50 Nigerian engineers and technicians. All other activities, including design work, were conducted by Nigerian engineers together with a number of expatriates.

Ten aid agencies committed \$25 billion in 13 years

VIENNA, June 27, (OPECNA): Over the last 13 years, the leading commitment of the 10 aid institutions forming the Co-ordination Group — Arab aid institutions, OPEC Fund and Islamic Development Bank — reached over \$25 billion at the end of 1987. Less than 50 per cent of this amount went to Arab countries and the rest to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The aid assistance went to finance infrastructure, agriculture and livestock, industry and mining. In an interview with OPECNA, co-ordination secretary Khogali Abubakar said the group was formally set up in 1975 and its secretariat was assigned to the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The group includes four multilateral development institutions and six national development funds.

The first category is made up of the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the Islamic Development Bank. The second consists of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Iraqi Fund for External Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Qatar Development Account, the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company and the Saudi Fund for Development. The group, he said, started first with five Arab aid agencies — namely, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Iraqi Fund for External Development, the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development and the Saudi Fund for Development.

On the meeting last week with EEC representatives, Abubakar, who is also head of technical assistance and co-ordination at the Arab Fund, said the group co-operated with the EEC in the 66 countries belonging to the ACP (Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific) group. So far, seven meetings have been held between the two sides, during which deliberations concentrated on the exchange of experience, operational activities and information on projects financing in developing countries.

Iraqi Oil Tanker Company draws up staff training plan

BAGHDAD, June 27, (OPECNA): The Iraqi Oil Tanker Company (IOTC) has drawn up an extensive training programme to build the skills of its national staff who now account for 87 per cent of its total personnel strength. A spokesman of the company said here yesterday that the number of Iraqi personnel had grown steadily over the past 15 years. Today, four of its 15 captains are nationals. The training programme is aimed at enabling the company to compete with other major oil tanker companies. Established in April 1972, about six weeks before the oil industry was nationalised, the company was intended to become an integral part of the national oil sector.

Iraq signed an agreement with Spain in 1970 to build seven tankers, each of 56,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT). Another eight tankers with DWT ranging between 118,000 and 155,000 joined the fleet in the mid-1970s following agreements with Japanese and Swedish companies. This marked IOTC's entry into the world tanker market. The loading capacity of the 15 tankers which Iraq possessed until 1986 totalled 1.40 million DWT. They not only carried Iraqi crude but also performed the same service for many Arab and non-Arab countries.

Cyprus launches campaign to attract foreign investment

NICOSIA, June 27, (AP): Cyprus launched a campaign today to attract foreign investment.

Central Bank Governor Afentios Afentios told a news conference the emphasis was on the liberalisation introduced for investment opportunities and the simplification of procedures.

The campaign was coupled with an effort to transform the east Mediterranean island into an offshore business, banking and shipping-management centre.

Afentios said the attractiveness of Cyprus "consists of its central geographical location, its multilateral economic ties, fully qualified professional and technical manpower, excellent professional services and communications, coupled with generous tax concessions."

He added that this was reflected by the steady influx of offshore companies which have registered in Cyprus since the introduction of 200 new ones.

The number of offshore banking units stands at 16 following last week's registration of the Yugoslav bank Udrzena Beogradsk Banka.

Afentios said the offshore companies contribute 45 million Cyprus pounds (\$99 million) annually to the economy.

"The attraction of foreign investment and technology is one of the preconditions for the modernisation and improvement of the competitiveness of local production. This has become more imperative with the start of the procedure for Customs Union with the European Economic Community," Afentios added.

Cyprus is the only country headed for complete customs union with the EEC following the signing of an agreement in January which envisaged a transition period of 10-15 years.

Britain in the red by record amount

LONDON, June 27, (Reuters): Britain's current account balance of payments deficit soared to a record £1.21 billion (\$2.06 billion) in May, the government said today.

The gap, which measures imports and exports of goods as well as international payments for such services as banking, shipping and tourism, was twice as big as most economists had forecast.

"They are pretty terrible figures," said Robert Thomas, a senior economist at London investment bankers Greenwell Montagu.

Shortfall

The deficit was up by 66 per cent from an April shortfall of £728 million (\$1.24 billion). The London Stock Market's FTSE index of 100 blue-chip British shares fell more than 20 points, going below 1,850. The pound fell one cent and two pence to trade at \$1.7050 and 3.11 West German marks.

The Department of Trade officials said imports of aircraft

and precious stones were particularly high in May.

International payments for British services, including banking, financial services, shipping and for tourism, were unchanged in May at an estimated \$500 million (\$850 million).

Britain's oil exports fell by 13.5 per cent to \$461 million (\$786 million) in May.

A big worry for Britain, Greenwell Montagu's Thomas said, was a decline in export shipments.

Exports fell by 4.6 per cent to \$648 billion (\$1.05 billion) in May.

But imports continued to climb. They were up 2.1 per cent to \$819 billion (\$1.36 billion) in May.

Economists say the import boom, largely fuelled by credit, could rekindle inflation.

"Inflation is headed up... we're talking about an underlying rate of 4.5 to five per cent now," said Thomas. The government had forecast a 1988 inflation

rate of four per cent in its latest budget, presented in March.

But some economists think the numbers were so far out of line with expectations that they are questioning the figures, especially on the export side.

Since the government collects duty on imports, but if anything must pay out rebates on taxes on some exports, its import figures tend to be more accurate than export statistics, some economists say.

They note that Britain's trade gap started widening at the same time that changes in the collection of customs data took effect in January.

The previous record monthly current account deficit, of £905 million (\$1.54 billion), was reported in January.

The latest figures promise to fuel criticism of Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's economic policy.

A Treasury spokesman said the figures were a sign of a strong economy which was growing faster

than those of other major industrial nations.

The opposition Labour Party says the boom depends too much on credit-fuelled consumer spending and not enough on manufacturing and exports.

Labour says the government should have done more earlier this year to cap a surge in the value of the pound which hurt exporters. And it argues that slowing export sales could mean a rise in unemployment, now at 8.7 per cent.

Rekindle

Debate over Britain's currency policy has even surfaced in Thatcher's own Conservative Party.

This spring, Thatcher and Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson were said by political sources to have differed over whether Britain should cut interest rates to cool the pound's rally and so help out exporters.

Lawson was worried about the pound's rise, while Thatcher worried that lower interest rates would rekindle inflation.

Chances of opening share market remote

More share flotations in Saudi Arabia likely after success

BAHRAIN, June 27, (Reuters): The runaway success of a major share flotation in Saudi Arabia is likely to lead to more offerings in the coming year, but chances the country will soon develop a formal stock exchange are remote, bankers said.

Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corp., once the kingdom's biggest money changer but now converting to a fully-fledged commercial bank, closed its share offering on Monday more than eight times oversubscribed.

"It means that people are willing to take chances in the economy," said one banker in Saudi Arabia. "But we are still very sceptical of the stock market."

Al Rajhi's was the country's third public share offering in as

many months after a hiatus of nearly three years and was viewed as a test of the private sector's willingness to invest in an economy hit by falling oil revenues.

Bankers said the spectacular demand for Al Rajhi would encourage other companies to seek funds through capital markets.

Prospect

The Riyadh-based Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment, which handled Al Rajhi flotation, expects at least two to three other share offerings before the end of the year.

But, despite the renewed interest in Saudi shares, there seems little prospect of reform of the kingdom's cumbersome

trading system. Bankers said the demand for Al Rajhi shares was due in part to the reputation of the company, known and trusted by the Saudi public — a household name with a branch on every street corner.

Despite its conversion to commercial banking, the company has built up an identity of being committed to Islamic law, which bans the payment and receipt of interest.

Demand for Al Rajhi was also boosted by the low price of the shares in the \$22.5 million riyal (\$86 million) offering. Each carried a face value of 100 riyals (\$27), but the price was expected to rise steeply once trading began.

Two other offerings were not

as well-received. A 300 million riyal (\$80 million) flotation for Taiba Co. for Investments and Real Estate Development closed marginally oversubscribed in April after a 30-day extension, and a 149.1 million riyal (\$40 million) offering of Al Jouf Agricultural Development Co. was extended on May 14 after a lukewarm reception.

But the potential for raising cash remains huge. The size of the recent offering have been very small compared to the amount of Saudi Arabia's private and public savings.

"It is still an extraordinarily liquid economy," said one banker.

To tap this liquidity, the government is issuing development

bonds for the first time this year, and the day Al Rajhi issue closed it received payments on its first 1.5 billion riyal (\$400 million) offering.

Investors said that in the improved share climate the government will be tempted to raise funds by selling off more shares in public sector companies, and major family corporations could follow suit.

In 1984 the government-owned petrochemical conglomerate Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) sold off 30 per cent of its capital in 2.04 billion riyal (\$544 million) share flotation. Further SABIC sales, postponed because of an economic recession, may possibly be revived, bankers said.

Latin American ministers urge for more action

OAXACA, Mexico, June 27, (Reuters): Latin American foreign ministers were winding up a two-day meeting yesterday with agreements that industrial nations need to make more concessions to developing countries despite promising signs at the Toronto summit.

The eight ministers planned to issue a communique today after they meet in Mexico City as the Contadora group and its support group. The Contadora countries, seeking peace in Central America, are the same as the Group of Eight.

Foreign Ministry officials said the communique would praise the Toronto summit of the seven major industrial democracies for its more open approach on foreign debt, but will press for recognition of co-responsibility in solving the six-year-old debt crisis.

Reversing

Latin America must find ways of reversing the net transfer of its capital to industrial countries, estimated at \$150 billion in the last five years, mainly due to debt service, the officials said.

In Toronto last week, the seven nations agreed to a plan of debt relief options for 20 poor African states but offered nothing specific to ease Latin America's \$410 billion debt burden.

"The ministers welcomed the positive aspects of the communique but stressed much remained to be done and hopefully measures on Latin American debt will be agreed next time," one official said.

The ministers are meeting here

as a follow-up to the first Latin American presidential summit in Acapulco last November and to prepare for the second such meeting in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, next October.

Ministers taking part in Oaxaca are Dante Caputo of Argentina, Julio Londoño of Colombia, Bernardo Sepúlveda of Mexico, Luis Gonzalez Posadas of Peru, Luis Barrios Tassano of Uruguay and German Nava Carrillo of Venezuela.

Imports

Brazil is represented by senior Foreign Ministry official Paulo Tarso Fletcher De Lima and Panama, the other member, was suspended following February's overthrow of President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter was to take part in today's Contadora meeting and officials said they expected Panama would be re-admitted to the Group of Eight soon.

The ministers noted that Latin American imports fell from \$98 billion in 1981 to only \$65 billion in 1987 and that the region has a golden opportunity to return to growth by importing from within and by joining forces on technology. Latin America could even compete overseas.

They also agreed Latin America should unify its division in the present round of global trade talks and that the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) should be strengthened.

In this respect they welcomed the Toronto statement on the need to combat trade protectionism and to make progress on lowering import barriers.

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International Bond Highlights

London — Toyota Motor Finance (Netherlands) BV is issuing a 200 mln dr Eurobond due July 26, 1991, 8-3/4 pct and priced at 101 pct, lead manager Nomura International Ltd. said. (RTUO 1018) another Toyota Motor Corp unit, Toyota Motor Credit Corp., is issuing a 60 mln New Zealand dr Eurobond, lead manager Hambros Bank Ltd. said. (RTUM 1008)

London — The State Bank of Victoria is issuing a 100 mln dr Eurobond due June 26, 1993, paying 9-1/4 pct and priced at 101-1/2 pct, Fuji International Finance Ltd. said as co-lead manager with Merrill Lynch. (RTXB 1404)

Eindhoven, Netherlands — Dutch Electronics Firm NV Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken said it was launching a 300 mln guildler, 6.0 pct, five-year Euro bullet priced at 100-1/2 (RTXQ 1517) in Zurich, lead manager Union Bank of Switzerland said Philips is issuing 250 mln Swiss francs of seven year 4-3/8 pct notes priced at par. (RTTD 0732)

Frankfurt — Santander financial issuances, the Cayman Island subsidiary of Spain's Banco Santander, is issuing a 100 mln mark five-year equity warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon of 2-3/4 pct and priced at par, lead manager Morgan Stanley GMBH said. (RTTS 0921)

Interbank Rates

| CALL | ONE MONTH | THREE MONTHS |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| LDN 8-3/4 1/2 | 9-5/8 1/2 | 9-15/16 13/16 |
| FFY 3.95/4.05 | 4.20/30 | 4.50/60 |
| PAR 7-1/4 5/16 | 7-1/16 3/16 | 7-3/16 5/16 |
| ZUR 1-5/8 1-7/8 | 2-7/8 3-1/8 | 3-1/4 |
| BRX 2.90 | 6.00 1/8 | 6-1/8 1/4 |
| ROM 10 10-1/2 | 10-3/4 11-1/4 | 11 11-1/2 |
| AMS 2-0/0 2-1/2 | 3-5/8 3-3/4 | 4-1/8 4-1/4 |
| TOK 3.5625 6250 | 3.9575 4.0000 | 4.1000 |
| EDU 5.62 5.87 | 6.00 6.12 | 6.25 6.37 |

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday:

| Period | Bid | Offered |
|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 month | 7-3/16 | 6-11/16 |
| 3 months | 6-9/16 | 6-11/16 |
| 6 months | 6-1/2 | 6-7/8 |
| 1 year | 6-3/8 | 6-13/16 |

BOMBAY

| PR. CLOSE | OPEN | CLOSE | GLINDIA | 60.25 | 60 | 61 MID | 580 | 580 | 570 |
|------------|--------|--------|---------|------------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|
| ACC | 221 | 231 | 232 | GRASIM | 43.50 | 44 | 43.50 | MUKAND | 86.50 |
| ASIA PAINT | 152.50 | 155 | 152.50 | GSFC | 122 | 123.50 | 120 | ORRAY | 36.50 |
| BAJAJ AUTO | 227.50 | 232.50 | 245 | HIND LEVER | 65.50 | 65 | 65 | PEICO | 32 |
| BAR. RAYON | 227.50 | 232.50 | 240 | HINDALCO | 85.50 | 85 | 85 | PFIZER | 65 |
| BOR. DYING | 137 | 141 | 140 | HINDCOBA | 83.75 | 82.50 | 83 | PRE. AUTO | 37.50 |
| BR. BOND | 86 | 86 | 87 | HINDOT | 24 | 24.75 | 24.50 | RAYMOND | 49 |
| BSE INDEX | 582.24 | 586.43 | 581 | IND ORG | 20.50 | 19 | 19.50 | RELIANCE | 206.50 |
| CENTURYSP | 790 | 800 | 810 | INDRAN | 70 | 71 | 69 | SIEMENS | 64 |
| COLGATE | 212.50 | 210 | 212.50 | INDROL | 173.75 | 177 | 175 | SPIC | 48 |
| DEEPAKFEAT | 37.25 | 37 | 36 | ITC | 39.50 | 40.50 | 40.50 | STONWILLS | 222.50 |
| ET. HOTEL | 50 | 49 | 50 | JISWTH | 64.50 | 65 | 63.50 | TATA PUR | 230 |
| ESKAYEAT | 151.25 | 155 | 150 | L & T | 92 | 93 | 91 | TATACHEN | 69 |
| ESSAR | 20.50 | 21 | 20.25 | NATHINDA | 56 | 55.50 | 55.50 | TELCO | 665 |
| GAR. POLY | 76 | 76.50 | 76 | NASTERSHR | 11 | 10.75 | 11 | TISCO | 837.50 |
| GE. SHIP | 28.75 | 29 | 28.75 | NATHAL PL | 87.50 | 58.75 | 58.75 | VOLTA | 287.50 |

FRANKFURT

| STOCK | LAST PR. | CLSE |
|------------|----------|--------|
| LEG | 200.6 | 202.3 |
| ALLIANT VR | 1415.0 | 1431.0 |
| JADEMERK | 182.2 | 181.2 |
| JASF | 250.2 | 253.8 |
| JAYER | 280.0 | 284.5 |
| JAYER RYP | 335.1 | 341.0 |
| JAYER YEP | 335.3 | 331.0 |
| JBC | 310.0 | 306.0 |
| JNF | 399.0 | 401.0 |
| JNF | 513.5 | 528.0 |
| JONERZBK | 222.2 | 224.4 |
| JONIT GUM | 245.5 | 246.5 |
| JATNER BIK | 643.5 | 655.0 |
| JATNER BIK | 433.5 | 439.6 |
| LU | 376.0 | 374.0 |
| RESORNER B | 246.6 | 249.0 |
| IT-BANCOCK | 169.6 | 169.0 |
| IT-BANCOCK | 475.39 | 475.72 |
| ELDMUEHLE | 282.5 | 288.0 |
| GOLDSCHMID | 299.0 | 289.5 |
| HARPER | 431.0 | 433.0 |
| HOECHST AG | 264.5 | 267.7 |
| HOECHST | 141.0 | 148.5 |
| KORTEN | 189.0 | 190.0 |
| RUSSEL HLD | 430.0 | 430.0 |
| KALLI SALT | 156.0 | 153.0 |
| KARSTADT | 434.0 | 434.0 |
| KALFHOFF | 376.0 | 378.5 |
| KLOECK H | 121.2 | 126.0 |
| KLOECK W | 0 | 101.0 |
| LINDE | 689.0 | 690.0 |
| LUFTHANSA | 150.0 | 148.0 |
| MAN | 184.0 | 188.5 |
| MANHESMAN | 156.7 | 158.0 |
| MERCEDES | 515.7 | 518.0 |
| METALLGES | 315.0 | 320.0 |
| NIDORF PF | 467.0 | 478.5 |
| NORSK NYD | 60.20 | 60.00 |
| PHILIP KOD | 591.5 | 592.0 |
| POESCHE | 519.0 | 519.0 |
| PREUSSAG | 172.0 | 175.0 |
| PWA | 219.0 | 226.0 |
| RHEINMETAL | 277.0 | 278.0 |
| SAL | 219.0 | 218.0 |
| SAL P | 206.0 | 205.5 |
| SAUMANDER | 245.5 | 252.0 |
| SCHERING | 511.8 | 512.0 |
| SEL | 299.0 | 301.0 |
| SIEMENS | 405.1 | 412.5 |
| THYSEN | 145.5 | 147.5 |
| VARTA | 281.0 | 282.5 |
| VEBA | 263.7 | 268.0 |
| VEW | 165.0 | 165.0 |
| VOLKSWAGEN | 261.5 | 264.7 |

HONG KONG

| STOCK | LAST PR. | CLSE |
|-------------|----------|--------|
| C H TUNNEL | 17.80 | 18.00 |
| CHUNG K | 7.85 | 7.95 |
| CHINA GAS | 18.10 | 18.10 |
| CHINA L-P | 18.10 | 18.00 |
| CHINA KOTR | 24.10 | 24.70 |
| CSMO GROUP | 4.10 | 4.10 |
| EVERED INT | .55 | .55 |
| FAR EAST C | .88 | .91 |
| GEN ORIENT | 0 | 44.00 |
| H C DEVELOP | 9.90 | 9.75 |
| H S INDEX | 89.66 | 707.56 |
| HANG LUNG | 5.60 | 5.75 |
| HANG SENG | 28.10 | 28.10 |
| HAW PAR BR | 0 | 21.00 |
| HK ELEC CO | 7.40 | 7.45 |
| HK KONG CO | 8.00 | 7.95 |
| HK LAND CO | 7.70 | 7.75 |
| HK SHAN BK | 6.25 | 6.30 |
| HK SHAN HT | 5.15 | 5.40 |
| HK TELE CO | 7.10 | 7.10 |
| HUTCH PAC | 9.20 | 9.25 |
| IND EQ PAC | 13.00 | 13.00 |
| JARDINE H | 13.20 | 13.20 |
| KOOLON H | 9.60 | 9.65 |
| KEU WORLD | 11.50 | 11.80 |
| MAU Y CON | 2.92 | 3.10 |
| MAU Y CON | 0 | 6.45 |
| H K K CO | 2.42 | 2.35 |
| H K PROK | 11.40 | 11.90 |
| THE DARY | 1.87 | 1.86 |
| TELUM | 2.85 | 2.90 |
| WIRE PAC | 18.70 | 18.60 |
| V B CO | 13.40 | 13.60 |
| AT CHEUNG | 4.10 | 4.10 |
| NION BANK | 1.67 | 1.66 |
| LOCK HARD | 0 | 7.25 |
| LOCK HART | 0 | 1.15 |
| ORLD INTL | 3.57 | 3.57 |

TOKYO

| STOCK | LAST PR. | CLSE |
|-------------|----------|--------|
| AJINOMOTO | 3170 | 3220 |
| AKAI ELEC | 702 | 705 |
| AKO | 1040 | 1030 |
| ASAHI GAS | 2000 | 2000 |
| ASAHI OPT | 770 | 780 |
| BANK TOKYO | 1580 | 1570 |
| BRIDGESTON | 1280 | 1440 |
| CANON | 1180 | 1200 |
| CASIO COMP | 1240 | 1220 |
| CHUGAI PHR | 765 | 768 |
| CITIZEN W | 886 | 912 |
| D-ICHI KAN | 3160 | 3170 |
| DAI NIP K | 791 | 797 |
| DAI NIP PT | 2440 | 2520 |
| DAI NIP SC | 1100 | 1100 |
| DAI NIP SC | 680 | 695 |
| DAI NIP SC | 867 | 880 |
| DATUM H | 1860 | 1920 |
| DATUM SEC | 2360 | 2350 |
| EBRA MFG | 970 | 960 |
| EISAI | 2020 | 2020 |
| FUITSU | 1490 | 1510 |
| FUJII BANK | 3180 | 3170 |
| FUJII PHOTO | 3700 | 3720 |
| FUJITSAMA | 1850 | 1850 |
| FIJITA CP | 745 | 768 |
| HITACHI | 1390 | 1420 |
| HONDA MOT | 1650 | 1670 |
| ISETAN | 1630 | 1620 |
| ITO YOKADO | 4400 | 4450 |
| JAP SYN RJ | 1100 | 1120 |
| JAPAN AIR | 14100 | 14100 |
| JAPAN NET | 720 | 718 |
| KAJIMA | 1470 | 1470 |
| KANSAI EI | 3010 | 3020 |
| KAO SOAP | 1760 | 1760 |
| KAMASAKI H | 525 | 521 |
| KAMASAKI S | 640 | 609 |
| KIRIN BREW | 2050 | 2100 |
| KONATSU | 722 | 733 |
| KUBOTA LTD | 736 | 748 |
| KYOCERA | 5380 | 5400 |
| MAKITA EL | 1710 | 1750 |
| MAZDA | 2980 | 3000 |
| NATSUTA EI | 0 | 2450 |
| NATSUTA EL | 0 | 2460 |
| NEIJI SEIK | 1000 | 992 |
| MITSUBI CP | 1200 | 1240 |
| MITSUBI EL | 795 | 806 |
| MITSUBI EST | 2460 | 2490 |
| MITSUBI RYV | 815 | 815 |
| MITSUBI CO | 918 | 922 |
| MITSUBISHI | 1670 | 1680 |
| MITSUBI EL | 1180 | 1170 |
| NICHICON | 1330 | 1350 |
| NIFON CHMT | 850 | 860 |
| NIKKO SEC | 1860 | 1880 |
| NIP ELEC | 2050 | 2080 |
| NIP KOKKAN | 564 | 554 |
| NIP OIL | 1110 | 1110 |
| NIP STEEL | 575 | 570 |
| NIP YUSEN | 710 | 710 |
| NIS MOTOR | 964 | 958 |
| OHRA CO | 1010 | 1010 |
| OLYMPUS | 1110 | 1110 |
| PENTA OCM | 895 | 886 |
| PIONEER | 3020 | 3020 |
| RENOVA | 950 | 960 |
| RICOH | 1220 | 1230 |
| SANKYO | 1990 | 1960 |
| SANYO ELEC | 622 | 630 |
| SEIYU ST | 2140 | 2110 |
| SEIKI SU | 1720 | 1710 |
| SHARP | 1090 | 1100 |
| SHISEIDO | 1800 | 1820 |
| SONY | 5070 | 5070 |
| SUNYOTON | 1100 | 1120 |
| TAISEI | 932 | 941 |
| TAISHO NHN | 1070 | 1080 |
| TAKEDA CH | 2630 | 2680 |
| TEIJIN | 858 | 850 |
| TKO NEW IX | 155.70 | 162.67 |
| TOKIO NHN | 1890 | 1910 |
| TOKYO ELEC | 1160 | 1170 |
| TOKYO GAS | 1030 | 1030 |
| TOKYO PAOR | 5700 | 5750 |
| TORAY IND | 930 | 932 |
| TOSHIBA EL | 885 | 895 |
| TOTO | 2170 | 2170 |
| TOYO KOGY | 610 | 614 |
| TOYOTA MOT | 2270 | 2260 |
| YAMATA | 1300 | 1280 |
| YAMAYACHI | 3800 | 3850 |
| YAMAZAKI | 1530 | 1550 |

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE DOWN DUE TO DOLLAR CONCERNS
TOKYO, JUNE 27, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER DUE TO CONTINUED WORRY ABOUT HOW HIGH THE DOLLAR CAN CLIMB AND THE REPERCUSSIONS OF RISING YEN/DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATES.

"IF THE YEN KEEPS WEAKENING, PRESSURE ON THE BANK OF JAPAN TO RAISE INTEREST RATES INCREASES," SAID STRATEGIST ANDREW BALLINGALL OF BARCLAYS DE ZOTTE MEO SECURITIES (JAPAN) LTD.

"ANYTHING SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE 132 YEN, THE BANK OF JAPAN WILL HAVE TO COME IN."

THE NIKKEI INDEX LOST 121.20 POINTS, OR 0.44 PCT, TO 27,435.01. IT SAKE 194.18 POINTS IN HALF-DAY TRADING ON SATURDAY. VOLUME WAS 850 MLN SHARES AGAINST 600 MLN.

SECURITIES HOUSE, RAILWAY/BUS, REAL ESTATE, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, RUBBER, AIRLINE, RETAIL, GAS, FOOD, CONSTRUCTION, CREDIT/LEASE AND SOME MANUFACTURING SHARES LED THE DECLINE.

COMMUNICATIONS, AUTO, WAREHOUSE, SHIPPING AND ROLLING STOCK ISSUES ADVANCED. FALLS LED RISES 1.7 TO ONE.

THE LOOMING FEAR OF HIGHER INTEREST RATES, RESULTING FROM EITHER INFLATION OR A FALTERING YEN, HAS DISCOURAGED ANY AGGRESSIVE BUYING, BROKERS SAID. ANTICIPATION THAT THE DOLLAR WOULD SOON TEST LEVELS AROUND 132 YEN HAS ENCOURAGED INVESTORS TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING MAJOR POSITIONS.

"THERE IS A FEELING THAT IF THE DOLLAR MANAGES TO GO THROUGH 132 YEN, IT WILL THEN RISE TO 135," SAID CHIEF FUND MANAGER KAOBU SHIMURA OF SUMITOMO LIFE INSURANCE CO. "IF IT CLIMBS TO 140, IT WOULD HAVE GONE TOO FAR."

INFLATION DOES NOT POSE AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH INVESTORS ARE SKEAMISH AT THE POSSIBILITY OF IT DRAWING NEARER AS THE YEN WEAKENS, BROKERS SAID.

THE DOLLAR CLOSED SHARPLY HIGHER AT 131.70, EQUALLING ITS PREVIOUS TRADED PEAK FOR THE YEAR OF 131.70 YEN ON JANUARY 18. NO BANK OF JAPAN INTERVENTION WAS DETECTED TODAY.

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, JUNE 27, REUTER - SHARE PRICES WEAKENED IN AFTERNOON TRADING, FOLLOWING MORNING RISES, ON MARKET UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX FELL 17.9 TO 2,689.66 WHILE THE BROADER-BASED HONG KONG INDEX DROPPED 12.10 TO 1,779.67. TURNOVER ROSE TO 1.33 BILLION H.K. DLRS FROM FRIDAY'S 1.25 BILLION.

"I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THE MARKET UP THIS MORNING, BECAUSE THERE WERE ALREADY LOTS OF SELLERS," A LOCAL BROKER SAID. "THIS AFTERNOON THEY GOT TIRED OF WAITING."

AMMAN

| | OPNG | CLSE | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|
| ALA-ADDIN COMPANY | 1.22 | 1.23 | JOR MANAG/CONSULT | 0.50 0.50 |
| ARAB ALUMINUM IND. | 1.65 | 1.62 | JOR NATIONAL BANK | 2.55 2.55 |
| ARAB BANK | 114.0 | 113.8 | JOR PAPER CARDBRGG | 3.10 3.07 |
| ARAB CHEMICAL DTER | 3.95 | 3.96 | JOR PHOSPHATE MINS | 2.38 2.39 |
| ARAB FINANCE CORP. | 1.35 | 1.35 | JOR PIPES MANUFACT | 1.17 1.14 |
| ARAB INSURANCE | 1.00 | 0.98 | JOR PRESS/PUBLISH. | 2.00 2.11 |
| ARAB INT. INV/TRAD. | 0.98 | 0.98 | JOR PRINTING/PACK. | 4.00 4.05 |
| ARAB INT. UNION INS | 0.94 | 0.90 | JOR ROCK WOOL IND. | 0.61 0.60 |
| ARAB INTER. HOTELS | 0.53 | 0.58 | JOR SECURITY CORP. | 0.76 0.76 |
| ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK | 2.10 | 2.10 | JOR SELPHO CHEM. | 2.56 2.56 |
| ARAB PAPER COM/TRD | 0.33 | 0.32 | JOR WOOD INDUSTRY | 1.11 1.11 |
| ARAB PHARMA. MANF. | 1.98 | 1.97 | JOR WORSTED MLL | 4.51 4.52 |
| ARAB PHARMA/CHEM | 0.76 | 0.75 | JOR. KUWAIT AGR | 1.00 1.00 |
| ARAB POTASH CO. | --- | --- | JOR. PETROLIUM REF | 7.34 7.34 |
| ARABIAN SEAS INS. | 1.65 | 1.65 | JOR. FRENCH INS. | 5.20 5.30 |
| BANK OF JORDAN | 15.35 | 15.35 | JOR. INV. FIN. CORP. | 1.96 1.97 |
| BELGIUM INSURANCE | 1.00 | 0.95 | JORDANIAN GULF REAL | 0.32 0.32 |
| CAIRO AMMAN BANK | 28.50 | 28.50 | JORDAN DAIRY | 1.00 0.99 |
| DAR AL SHAAB PRESS | 0.49 | 0.46 | JORDAN GULF BANK | 1.23 1.23 |
| DAR ALBAHA DV/INV. | 1.50 | 1.52 | JORDAN GULF INS. | 0.94 0.94 |
| DARCO/INVEST/INDUS. | 0.46 | 0.47 | JORDAN INSURANCE | 13.85 13.91 |
| FINANCE/CREDIT/COF | 0.59 | 0.58 | JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 1.80 1.79 |
| GARAGE OWNERS OFF | 3.65 | 3.70 | JORDAN KUWAIT BANK | 1.45 1.44 |
| GENERAL INSURANCE | 2.39 | 2.63 | JORDAN TANNING | 2.00 2.00 |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT | 1.27 | 1.27 | JESSE/STOCK/POULTRY | 0.77 0.77 |
| GENERAL MINING. | 1.30 | 1.30 | HACH/ECO/RENT/MAIN | 0.79 0.79 |
| HIMMEL MINERALS | 0.75 | 0.75 | MAS INDUSTRIES | 0.69 0.73 |
| HOLY LAND INS. | 1.35 | 1.30 | MIDDEL EAST HOTEL | 0.60 0.60 |
| IND./MATCH JEMCO | 0.63 | 0.62 | MIDDEL EAST RESTAUR. | 0.60 0.60 |
| INDSTRIAL DEVLPT BK | 1.50 | 1.51 | MINERAL INVEST CO | 0.60 0.59 |
| INDSTRIAL/COM/AGR. | 1.27 | 1.26 | MAT. FTM. RESEARCH CO | 1.82 1.85 |
| INDUSTRIAL INVEST. | 0.75 | 0.75 | NAT./CABEL/VIRE/ME | 0.90 0.90 |
| INTERN. COM. INV. | 0.23 | 0.22 | NATIONAL AHLIA INS. | 1.29 1.29 |
| ISRAEL ELECTRICITY | 0.96 | 0.93 | NATIONAL INDUSTRY | 0.38 0.37 |
| ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE | 0.64 | 0.64 | NATIONAL PORTFOLIO | 0.73 0.74 |
| ISTERNED/PETRI/CH | 1.23 | 1.23 | NATIONAL STEEL | 2.65 2.65 |
| J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX | 0.79 | 0.80 | ORIENT DRY BATTERY | 0.25 0.22 |
| JERUSALEM INS. | 1.26 | 1.29 | PETRA BANK | 1.95 1.95 |
| JO TOBACCO/CIGARET | 1.10 | 1.10 | PETRA JOR. INS. | 0.35 0.35 |
| JOR CERAMIC FACTOR | 1.10 | 1.10 | PHILADELPHIA INS. | 0.86 0.87 |
| JOR EAGLE INS. | 25.01 | 25.05 | PIETRA INDUSTRIAL | 0.80 0.80 |
| JOR ELECTRIC POWER | 1.50 | 1.48 | REALTY INVEST. | 0.87 0.87 |
| JOR FINANCE HOUSE | 0.95 | 0.92 | SHIPPING LEVIES | 0.77 0.77 |
| JOR GLASS INDUSTRY | 0.98 | 0.98 | THE HOUSING BANK | 1.76 1.77 |
| JOR HOTEL TOURISM | 2.50 | 2.30 | UNITED INSURANCE | 0.94 0.94 |
| JOR INDUSTRY CHEM. | 1.57 | 1.62 | UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND | 1.48 1.48 |
| JOR INS AND FIN. | 1.20 | 1.20 | UNIVERSAL INS. | 1.19 1.21 |
| JOR LEASING CORP. | 0.70 | 0.64 | WOOLEN INDUSTRIES | 0.70 0.70 |
| JOR LIN BRICK | 0.22 | 0.22 | YAMOUK INSURANCE | 1.10 1.10 |

BUSINESS

World oil prices ease slightly

LONDON, June 27, (Reuters): Crude oil prices slipped 30-45 cents a barrel on world spot markets throughout today, but in very thin business, traders said.

They said news the cabinet of the UAE had backed up the tough stance on production taken by their oil minister at the last meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) helped depress prices.

During the last OPEC meeting, which ended in Vienna on June 14, the UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteibi said his country was unhappy with the output quota of 948,000 barrels per day (bpd) assigned to it by the group, and was seeking a higher quota of 1.5 million bpd.

But although this served as a reminder of the lack of unity within the group, it was not enough to inspire business at the lower levels, traders said.

Another factor behind the weaker prices today, according to oil traders, was a report that another OPEC member, Saudi Arabia, had increased price discounts to its most important Western customers.

At the last OPEC meeting, all members agreed to stick to fixed prices around a reference price of \$18 a barrel.

Towards the close of European trade, North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international crude, slipped 30 cents to \$14.85 per barrel.

The leading US crude, West Texas Intermediate, stood 45 cents lower at \$15.85. The key Midwest crude Dubai was also down 40 cents at \$13.25 per barrel.

Latest spot oil prices — FOB, dollars per barrel

| | June 24 | June 27 |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| Brent (prompt) | 14.85 | 15.15 |
| WTI (Cush, Aug.) | 15.85 | 16.30 |
| Dubai (Aug) | 13.25 | 13.65 |

No sign of Bank of Japan intervention

US dollar soars in Tokyo to year-high close

TOKYO, June 27, (Reuters): The US dollar jumped to a record 1988 closing high today against the yen, spurred by an assumption by dealers that Washington and Tokyo were happy to see it rise.

It closed at 131.70 yen, significantly higher than the Friday close of 130.40/50 in New York.

"The market is eager to try the dollar's upside again after they failed to breach 132 yen early this year," said Noboru Yokohashi of the Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank.

The dollar had briefly hit 131.70 yen during the day on January 18.

There was no sign of Bank of Japan intervention during today's trading, encouraging those operators who believe the dollar is heading higher.

Tokyo shares, however, slid further due to fears that the central bank might tighten yen interest rates to stop the dollar rising too strongly against the Japanese currency.

"If the yen keeps weakening, pressure on the Bank of Japan to raise interest rates increases," said strategist Andrew Ballingall of Barclays De Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan). "Anything significantly above 132 yen, the Bank of Japan will have to come in."

Tokyo's Nikkei index lost 121.20 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 27,435.01. It sank 194.18 points in half-day trading on Saturday.

Go through

"There is a feeling that if the dollar manages to go through 132 yen, it will then rise to 135," said chief fund manager Kaoru Shimura of Sumitomo Life Insurance. "If it climbs to 140, it would have gone too far."

Many Japanese market men believe that Washington and Tokyo reached a secret agreement during the Toronto

summit meeting in June whereby the dollar could rise and Japan would be able to tighten monetary policy to head off inflationary trends.

"Most people held long positions in anticipation that the dollar would breach 132 yen and 1.83 marks overseas today," said Norimitsu Takada, senior dealer at Citibank.

Surged

In London, the dollar surged to its highest values since the run-up to last October's financial crash today bringing central bank intervention to brake its rally.

Some currency dealers in New York said they believed the US Federal Reserve Board had followed West Germany's Bundesbank in selling dollars for marks.

Meanwhile news of a record British balance of payments deficit in May £1.21 billion (\$2.06 billion) sent the pound skidding and stampeded the London Stock Market into a 36-point drop.

Gold was lower at around \$441.50 an ounce but the US drought continued to push farm prices higher.

Intervention

On the dollar, several dealers said that concerted central bank intervention might be needed to take the heat out of the current rally which began last week.

A communique by the Group of Seven leading industrial nations at their Toronto economic summit last week said they favoured a stable dollar, warning that wild gyrations would be bad for the global economy.

"The dollar will continue its climb unless there is coordinated central bank intervention," a dealer for a US bank said in Frankfurt, where the dollar began this week at 1.8255 West German marks — its highest since October 7.



Money brokers dealing in Tokyo exchange after the US dollar opened at a four-month high yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

The dollar later slipped just below 1.82 marks after the reports of central bank intervention.

A narrowing US trade deficit, relatively high US interest rates and a favourable outlook for America's economy have driven the dollar up by 10 pennings in two weeks.

Detected

Some New York dealers detected intervention by the Fed after some operators had sold dollars to lock in profits made on those gains. A favoured tactic of central banks is to wait until the market itself shows signs of going the way they want, then intervening to reinforce the trend.

The major economic news was that of Britain's record payments deficit for May, which knocked

the pound sterling down by around two cents and nearly four pennings to lows of \$1.6945 and 3.0950 marks.

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip British stocks lost more than 36 points to a session low at 1,834.9 before rallying a little.

The deficit, which measures imports and exports plus international payments for services, was more than double most analysts' estimates. It was up by 66 per cent from an April shortfall of £728 million (\$1.24 billion).

"They are pretty terrible figures," said Robert Thomas, a senior economist at London investment bankers Greenwell Montagu.

The London Stock Exchange declared 'fast market' conditions, meaning its computers were overloaded, in the period right after the announcement of the trade figures. This was the first time this had happened since last October's crash, dealers said.

Several dealers said the figures were bad news for the stock market, suggesting the pressure could now be on for a full one point rise in British base interest rates, now nine per cent, to damp down a credit-driven consumer boom.

The boom is syphoning in imports and threatens to cause higher inflation.

In other leading stock markets, the 50-share Paris Bourse indicator was 0.37 per cent lower while in Frankfurt shares started easier, following a weak lead from Asia.

meanwhile, in Bahrain, Saudi rial deposit rates yesterday were steady to firmer in active trade as banks prepared for settlement next week of the Saudi government's second 1.5 billion rial (\$400 million) development bond issue.

They said the second offering launched on Saturday had been well received, especially in one, two and three-year maturities.

One dealer estimated that banks would take up to 75 per cent of the issue. Saudi banks had until noon today to enter bids.

"The yields for the one-year bonds are well below similar interbank rates, but the risk is much better," the dealer said.

Bankers have calculated the effective yield on the one-year bond at between 7.75 and 7.85 per cent. One-year interbank deposits were quoted yesterday at 8.3/4, 1/4 per cent.

One-month deposits were unchanged from Sunday at 7-15/16, 13/16 per cent and three-month was steady at 8-1/16, 7-7/8 per cent.

There was heavy activity in six-month swaps, and six-month deposits firmed 1/16 point to 8-1/8, eight per cent. Spot-neat and one-week were little changed at 7-7/8, 1/2 per cent.

The spot rial eased to 3.7503/06 to the dollar from 3.7498/7501 on Sunday after aggressive bidding by Saudi Banks last week for rial funds subsidised.

Dollar positions unwound KD deposits ease

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates eased yesterday as commercial banks unwound long dollar positions, boosting dinar liquidity in the interbank market.

But dealers said rates were still unusually high as the dollar remained strong against the dinar. Banks had built up long dollar positions throughout the past week, during which the US currency gained 1.5 per cent against the dinar.

Overnight funds fell back to 12 and 12-1/2 per cent from 15 per cent on Sunday. Tomorrow-next deal at 11 per cent early in the day, but bids later fell to eight per cent from Sunday's 10 per cent.

Spot-neat funds were quoted by early afternoon at 8-1/2, 7-1/2 per cent after 10 per cent bids on Sunday, while one-week quotes fell to eight per cent from 10 per cent.

Dealers reported business in fixed maturities only in the one-month at 7-1/2 per cent early in the day. Quotes closed at 7-1/2, 6-3/4 per cent after Sunday's 7-3/4, 1/4 per cent. Two and three-month money was offered 1/4 point lower at 6-3/4, 1/2 per cent, but six to 12-month deposits were little changed at 6-7/8, 3/8.

The Central Bank's dinar exchange rate softened to 0.28108/18 to the dollar from Sunday's 0.28024/34, while commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.28108/14.

Arab oil revenues are unlikely to increase in the coming years and new measures should be taken to improve economic efficiency, an Arab oil group said in a report published yesterday.

In the 1987 annual report of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), acting Secretary General Abdelaziz Al Witrani wrote:

"It is not expected that oil revenues of member countries will significantly increase in the next few years, which requires new measures to raise the productive efficiency of the economy."

Arab economies have been hard hit by the fall in world oil prices and the declining share of Arab oil in the world market.

Al Witrani called on Arab oil exporters to increase the role of the private sector and encourage

joint ventures to distribute natural gas and petroleum products more evenly among them.

Al Witrani said now that Arab states had completed most of their planned refineries and oil-based industries, they must make maximum use of them.

He also said Arab states had suffered from the decline in the value of the US dollar, in which oil is priced, relative to other major international currencies.

Al Witrani said pricing oil by a basket of currencies instead of the dollar would solve the problem. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has considered use of a currency basket, but found it technically cumbersome.

OPEC groups OPEC members Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the UAE, Qatar, Libya and Algeria with non-OPEC Bahrain, Syria and Tunisia.

jobbers boycotted trading in protest against a government proposal to tax their turnover.

FRANKFURT: Prices ended a quiet course about one per cent lower, undermined by expectations that the Bundesbank would raise the discount rate at a meeting on Thursday. The Commerzbank index, which is calculated at mid-session, rose 7.3 to 1,438.1.

ZURICH: The market closed slightly lower in listless trading, with most investors wary following Wall Street's Friday decline. The stronger dollar had virtually no impact on sentiment. The Swiss index fell 2.6 to 872.5.

LONDON: Shares were sharply off Friday's closing levels in late trading after news of a record £1.21 billion deficit on the May UK current account. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 30.4 at 1,840.9.

NEW YORK: Stocks stayed lower in morning trading as the dollar slipped in response to limited sales of the currency by the Federal Reserve. The Dow was down nine at 2,134.

West Germany eases pressure on Britain over proposed European Central Bank

EEC leaders discuss closer monetary co-operation

HANOVER, West Germany, June 27, (AP): West Germany today eased its pressure on Britain over the proposed creation of a European Central Bank, as leaders from the 12 European Economic Community nations began a two-day summit.

The EEC heads of state gathered at a Hanover palace early in the afternoon for a lunch hosted by Ernst Albrecht, governor of Lower Saxony, the West German state where Hanover is located.

Dozens of armed police patrolled the grounds of the sprawling Hanover trade fairgrounds where formal discussions began in midafternoon.

Discussions

The 12 EEC leaders were driven in limousines and were escorted by police on motorcycles. They immediately went inside the conference building to start their discussions.

West German officials say main themes at the summit will be closer monetary co-operation between EEC countries and discussions of proposals for setting up a European Central Bank.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has expressed strong skepticism about setting up a European Central Bank, saying it could only occur when there are no political divisions between members of the EEC.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made several statements before the summit calling for the EEC heads of state to act quickly toward establishing such a bank at their summit in Hanover.

But Genscher changed the tone of his remarks in a radio interview, saying "the card does not go before the horse — that means, a European Central Bank should be followed by monetary reforms, but it should occur the other way around."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is expected to propose that the summit appoint one or two committees to study closer monetary co-operation between EEC nations as well as the possibility of creating a European Central Bank.

However, Kohl's spokesman, Friedhelm Ost, said the work of such committees could take a while to conclude.

Propose

Ost, speaking to reporters covering the summit, said one of two committees should be set up to propose "stages, goals and mechanisms" that could lead to the formation of a European Central Bank and one common currency. He said the committees should present a report in a year or 15 months.

However, Kohl and other EEC leaders still insist a European Central Bank will have to be ultimately set up as the

Community gets closer to its goal of achieving a totally barrier-free European market by 1992.

The West German chancellor says a wide range of other topics will also be discussed at the summit, including East-West relations, the environment and unemployment in EEC countries.

Support

Also at the meeting, Jacques Delors of France is expected to win support for another two-year term as president of the EEC executive commission, which runs the trade bloc's day-to-day affairs.

Kohl, the summit's chairman, says the Hanover meeting will focus on ways to increase monetary co-operation between member nations.

Kohl and his Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, are strong proponents of establishing a true European Monetary Union and a Central EEC Bank, saying they are necessary to formation of a barrier-free market.

Trade

Genscher, in a West German radio interview today, said creation of a Monetary Union and a Central European Bank would "open the door for a monetary-political development that is urgently needed, and we should not be timid about it."

France is also a strong supporter of a Central European Bank, and has complained the EEC is

not moving fast enough in that direction.

British Prime Minister Thatcher said in a speech last Thursday in parliament: "You will only have a European Central Bank when you have a United States of Europe under one sovereign government and not under 12, and that they all have the same economic policy."

"That being not on the cards, I see no point in having anyone to study a European Central Bank."

Likely

Britain is also likely to be pressured to join the European Monetary System (EMS), an exchange-rate control programme under which the currencies of eight of 12 EEC countries are kept within a prescribed range in order to avoid major fluctuations.

Britain has refused to tie its pound currency to the system because that would weaken control over domestic monetary policy.

The Hanover summit will be the last of the year under West Germany's presidency. The six-month rotating presidency goes to Greece in July.

The 12 EEC nations are West Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Denmark and Luxembourg.

Airbus signs first contract to sell planes to E. Germany

TOULOUSE, France, June 27, (Reuters): Europe's four-nation Airbus consortium today signed a contract to sell three A-310-300 airliners to East Germany, its first sale to an Eastern bloc country.

The sale of the extended-range jetliners to the state airline Interflug for its international routes signalled the start of a major Western offensive on the Soviet bloc aircraft market.

Approved

The deal was announced a week after the Western alliance's trade watchdog body COCOM, which controls high-technology exports to Communist nations, approved the sale.

No official price was disclosed but Airbus sources said the sale was worth over \$220 million.

Eastern bloc airlines such as Interflug, Poland's LOT and Romania's Tarom have shown increasing interest in buying Western aircraft, which was generally quieter and more fuel-efficient than Soviet planes.

Asked if the sale opened up a huge market in the Soviet bloc, Airbus chairman Jean Pierson said, "we have already had contacts with other countries." He gave no further details.

Airbus's major rival Boeing Co has also applied for clearance from the Co-ordinating Committee for Multinational Export Control (COCOM) for sales of

its 767 airliners to Poland and Romania.

Diplomats in Paris said Boeing was likely to get its authorisation within a week.

At today's ceremony Interflug also signed an agreement with West Germany's civilian airline Deutsche Lufthansa AG, to service the new planes.

Insisted

Diplomats said COCOM insisted on the maintenance agreement because it is wary of seeing sophisticated avionics being diverted to military applications by the Soviet bloc countries.

But Interflug said the servicing agreement was for practical reasons. "It would be too difficult to build up a stock of spare parts and to train maintenance teams for such a small number of planes," Interflug chairman Klaus Henkes said at the ceremony.

The sale of the Airbus planes, which are assembled in Toulouse from parts built in West Germany, Britain, Spain and France, also marks a new step in co-operation between West and East Germany.

Henke said East Germany hoped to start negotiations with its neighbour on a reciprocal agreement that would grant Interflug landing rights and allow it to fly over West German territory, thus avoiding costly detours.

Dubai firm plans to build petrol stations

DUBAI, June 27, (Reuters): A Dubai company said today it plans to build about 50 petrol stations, breaking the retail monopoly of a company owned by the UAE federal government.

"We are investing over Dh100 million (\$27 million) and the first outlets will open in September," Hussain Sultan, managing director of Dubai's Emirates Petroleum Products Co. (EPPCO), told Reuters.

He said EPPCO stations would open in every emirate except Abu Dhabi and would not undercut prices at the 120 outlets operated by the UAE-owned Emirates General Petroleum Company (EGPC).

"We will compete in standards of service rather than price," Sultan said.

Industry sources said EPPCO faced stiff competition from the EGPC and other companies in its traditional business of selling fuel oil, gas oil, bunker fuel and other products.

Sultan said EPPCO would probably buy its petrol from a refinery in Bahrain rather than from the UAE's only refineries in Abu Dhabi.

Industry sources said EPPCO's entry into the petrol market reflected a desire by Dubai, the UAE's commercial centre, to assert its economic independence of Abu Dhabi.

Sudan pledges rapid push to privatise state firms

KHARTOUM, June 27, (Reuters): Sudan will push on vigorously with plans to sell off loss-making state enterprises as part of sweeping economic reforms, a senior finance official said today.

"It was very clear from the beginning that there will be resistance to privatisation, but that does not mean that the government has to back off because of opposition to a right policy," said Minister of State for Finance, Al Tigani Al Tayeb Ibrahim.

Commitment

"It is a government commitment and it will definitely be carried out to its fullest extent," he told in an interview.

Africa's largest country, burdened by a huge foreign debt, a famine and costly civil war, announced plans for major economic changes earlier this month.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been seeking reforms before approving funds for a national recovery programme.

Ibrahim said the IMF was satisfied with the measures.

But he said Sudan and the IMF were at odds over the need to devalue the pound further and Khartoum had asked for more time to study the issue.

"Since the IMF was insisting on direct action on the exchange rate, we thought the matter needed further study and we have to look at the social and political implications."

A swinging devaluation and price rises last year provoked riots in which several people were killed.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem, presenting the 1988/89 budget to parliament on June 15, said the government planned to give up ownership of several giant agricultural projects and some industries. It would also consider privatising the four state-owned commercial banks.

Price rises

He announced price rises for more than 20 non-essential items and the lifting of subsidies on top-quality wheat-flour.

Foreign bankers and economists welcomed the plans and said they met key IMF demands. But opposition parties and trade unions have vowed to fight the changes and say the government has surrendered to the IMF and the World Bank.

"There is definitely no limit to the process (of privatisation)... and since we hope that the economy, like other economies, is going to grow, then there is just no end to the process," said Ibrahim, appointed last week.

"It has to be carried out to its fullest extent. Workers are worried about their position because in the private sector they will be pressured to more activity and more discipline."

"From a purely economic point of view, it makes more sense to go in this direction rather than to continue wasting more

resources which the country is in bad need of," he added.

Nour Al Dayem told parliament yesterday that state-owned agricultural corporations alone had debts of more than one billion pounds (\$222 million). He said leftist policies adopted in the early 1970s were partly responsible for the economic crisis.

Ibrahim said the government intended to keep profit-making businesses. Loss-makers would be privatised and others with no hope for improvement would be closed down.

Sudan, with an estimated 23 million people, has a foreign debt of about \$12 billion that it has not been able to fully service since the early 1980s.

Its Army of some 60,000 men has been bogged down since 1983 in a bush war against rebels in the south. The war, according to unofficial estimates, costs five million pounds (\$1.11 million) a day.

The fighting and its disruption of farming have forced an estimated three million people to flee elsewhere in Sudan or to Ethiopia. A drought, the second since 1984, has hit many areas.

An IMF technical team has just ended two weeks of consultations in Khartoum and Ibrahim said it was satisfied with the new policies. He said the two sides were due to meet again in Washington next month and more talks were expected in Khartoum in September.

The IMF, to which Sudan is

more than \$700 million in arrears, declared the country ineligible for fresh credits in February 1986.

It has been pressing for more reforms to follow up an agreement last year under which Sudan devalued by 44 per cent and raised sugar and petrol prices. Several people were killed and scores injured in subsequent protests.

In return for reforms, which include further devaluation, the IMF will give the go-ahead to

donor countries to help finance a four-year economic recovery plan.

As a result of last year's pact, a group representing major Western donors pledged \$227.6 million in balance of payments support.

Ibrahim said actual disbursement of the pledges ran far below the total. Sudan hoped a second meeting of the group, probably in September or October, would promise another \$1 billion.

Four OPEC members pledge contributions to IFAD funds

ROME, June 27, (OPECNA): Four OPEC countries will maintain their contributions to the third replenishment of the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at the same level as in the past.

This was announced here at the end of the second consultative meeting on the third replenishment of the agency, the bulk of whose financing comes from OPEC and OECD countries.

Replenishment

OPEC countries contributed a total of \$184 million for the second replenishment, while OECD states gave \$276 million.

An IFAD spokesman said the consultations had ended on an "optimistic note."

Meanwhile, 44 countries from

'Category III', comprising developing countries benefiting from IFAD assistance, gave an assurance that their combined contribution would amount to 75 per cent of the \$75 million set as their target for the third replenishment.

OECD countries have already indicated their willingness to continue contributing to IFAD resources.

Combat



AFTER a night at sea, an old Egyptian fisherman mends his nets on the pavement near Alexandria port. (Reuter wirephoto)



TURKISH President Kenan Evren (right) meets Secretary of State George Shultz (left) after arriving at Andrews Air Force base to start his United States trip. At left is Mrs Shultz. (Reuter wirephoto)



WEST GERMAN policemen armed with machineguns inspect an automobile headed for the Hanover airport yesterday, shortly before the arrival of the leaders of the 12 European Economic Community nations for their semi-annual summit. (Reuter wirephoto)



SIXTY Singaporean Army troops dressed as toy tin-soldiers fall like dominoes as they entertain the public during the Singapore Armed Forces Day open-house celebrations. (Reuter wirephoto)



MARY, matriarch of the Sydney Zoo, undergoes an operation to remove a cataract from her left eye and a detached retina in the right eye. (Reuter wirephoto)



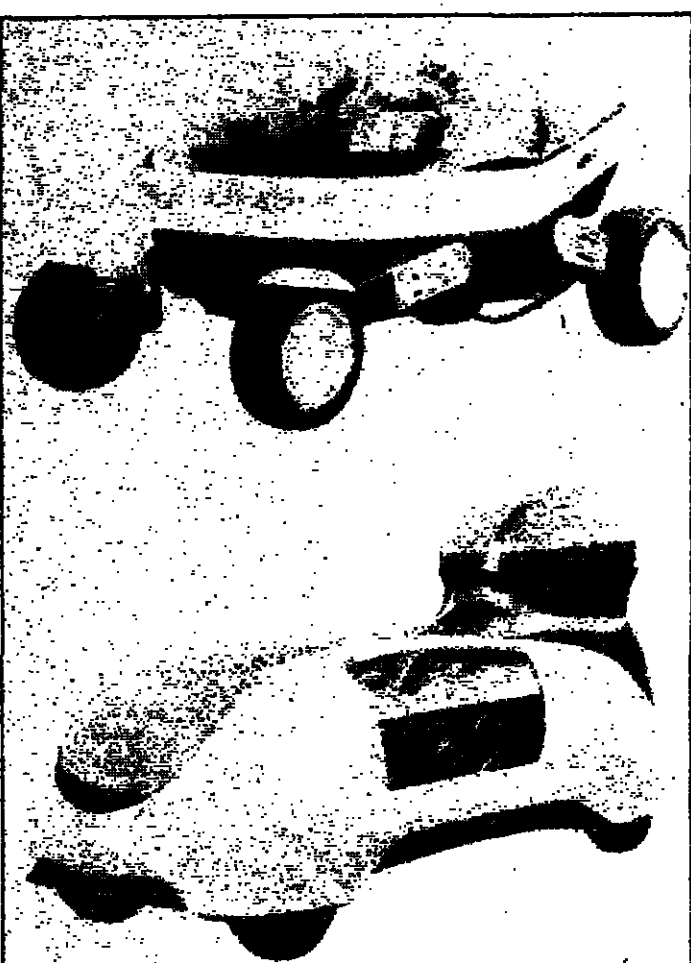
CHILDREN stand around the foundation stone of a future monument to Soviet soldiers, who died in Afghanistan, after it was unveiled on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



KANAK separatist Jean-Marie Tjibaou (left) and French loyalist leader Jacques Lafleur agreed on a new status for the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia on Sunday in Paris, making a major diplomatic triumph for Prime Minister Michel Rocard's Socialist government. (Reuter wirephoto)



KAHYASI (right) ridden by Ray Cochrane comes through to win by a head from Insan ridden by Richard Quinn at the Curragh Racecourse. (Reuter wirephoto)



TOYOTA Motor Corp has unveiled these futuristic car models to be displayed at the Gifu Future Exposition in the western Japanese city of Gifu Chubu starting from July 8. Top picture: the model called Cricket, features extended leg-like wheel struts to enable the vehicle to run on various types of terrain. Bottom: Barocco, includes a water tank to carry fish as a mobile fish shop. (Reuter wirephoto)



JAPANESE Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno (centre) shakes hands with the mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij, as the deposed mayor of Hebron, Mustafa Matahe looks on. Uno on Sunday met Palestinian notables in a hotel in occupied Jerusalem after visiting a refugee camp near Bethlehem. (Reuter wirephoto)



A FIRST aid worker (centre) helping 14-year-old Katja Willems (right) and another unidentified Dutch soccer fan (left) recover after the two fainted upon the arrival of Dutch soccer team at Eindhoven airport on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



PAKISTANI women skirmished with riot-equipped policemen outside the Government House in Karachi on Sunday as they protested against the decree issued by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq making Islam's sharia code the supreme source of law in Pakistan. (Reuter wirephoto)



BRITAIN'S Duchess of York (right) leans to talk to Princess Diana (left) as Catherine Soames looks across their heads in the royal box on centre court at Wimbledon in London. (Reuter wirephoto)

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SPORTS

Hooligans fear halts Wembley showpiece

LONDON, June 27. (Reuters): English soccer hooligans have deprived genuine fans of the chance of seeing Ruud Gullit, captain of newly crowned European champions, the Netherlands.

Gullit and his international teammates Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard were all due to appear for AC Milan in a four-team international club tournament on August 13 and 14.

But the English Football Association (FA) refused to sanction the event fearing trouble and it has been called off.

An FA spokesman said today: "The decision has been made on the basis of potential crowd disorder."

The other clubs involved were West Germany's Bayern Munich and England's Tottenham and Arsenal.

Wembley spokesman Mark Giles said: "We are stunned. We asked the FA for permission to stage this event back in March and contracts have been signed with the four clubs. To refuse us permission as late as this is somewhat surprising."

Happened
"They are apparently worried that English fans might attack the Bayern Munich supporters in the wake of what happened in West Germany."

"But, in an obvious attempt to prevent any crowd trouble, we were going to use seats only, with no standing areas, for this tournament."

Giles added: "We will be going back to the FA to see if there is any formula they will accept which will allow the tournament to go ahead."

Giles said that one possibility would be to replace Bayern Munich with Swedish club FC Gothenburg.

However, an FA source pointed out there would also be fears about possible trouble between supporters of north London neighbours Tottenham and Arsenal.

Libertadores Cup

BUENOS AIRES, June 27. (Reuters): Four players were sent off as San Lorenzo lost 1-0 at home to Racing Club but still won the Argentine soccer playoffs final 2-1 on aggregate to qualify for the Libertadores Cup.

RESULTS of the Hebra Centre Bridge Club games held on Saturday evening:

- N/S
1. Ahmed Tawil & Adel Bayoumi
2. Dr Reddy & Gajjar
3. Nabil & Nabil Akel
and Ghazi & Yassin
EW
1. K.T. Simon & Chaudhry
2. Mr & Mrs Sage
3. George & Adham
Results of the Hilton Bridge Club game held on Sunday evening:
1. Magdi Mesdard & Gregory Lalala
2. Nabil Akel & Dr Reddy
3. Ahmed Tawil & Mamdouh Sabri

SABATINI AND ZVEREVA KNOCKED OUT OF WIMBLEDON

Evert rallies to rout Adams for quarterfinals

WIMBLEDON, England, June 27. (AP): Chris Evert struggled into the fourth round at Wimbledon today, coming back from a set down to beat Katrina Adams, a 19-year-old American who used to idolise the three-time champion.

Defending men's champion Pat Cash and women's top seed Steffi Graf also advanced in straight sets.

But upsets knocked out two members of the women's top 10. Zina Garrison of the United States, seeded 12th, beat No. 5 Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, while unseeded Ros Fairbank ousted No. 8 Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union 6-2, 6-4.

World number one Ivan Lendl won a titanic fourth-round encounter against unseeded Australian Mark Woodforde today to sustain his cherished ambition of a first Wimbledon title.

Lendl, the top seed, beat the Australian left-hander, ranked 54th in the world, 7-5 6-7 7-5 10-8 in four hours 46 minutes, having survived a match point in the 14th game of the final set.

Resilience
It was another demonstration of Lendl's remarkable resilience in long matches. This was his ninth five-set match at Wimbledon and he has won the last eight. His only failure was the first time he was taken to five sets in 1981 when another unheralded Australian, Charlie Fancutt, beat him 6-3 in the fifth.

The 33-year-old Evert beat Adams, who turned professional just six months ago, 5-7, 6-3 6-0 to gain the final eight at the grass court Grand Slam tournament for the fifth year in a row.

Adams said her first racket was a Chris Evert model she got when she was 6 years old. She still has the racket, and — as it turned



Zvereva wonders what hit her after the match.

out — Evert still has that winning touch.

"I came out playing well and wanting to win. But I used up a lot of energy," Adams said. "In the third set, mentally and physically I had run out of gas. When you play Chris Evert, it's hard to keep up with her. She wore me down."

On a cloudy day, with all 32 players left in the singles draws in action, Cash gained the quarterfinals for the third year in a row with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Andrei Olhovskiy.

The men's third seed, Stefan Edberg of Sweden, also advanced easily, beating Australia's Simon Youl 6-2, 6-4, 6-4, and ninth-seeded Miloslav Mecir defeated Wally Masur of Australia 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2. Masur ousted eighth-seeded John McEnroe in the second round.

Graf kept up her perfect

record in Grand Slam tournaments with a 6-2 6-2 victory over 16th-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States.

The victory kept Graf on target for a sweep of the Grand Slam, which is also being chased by men's second seed Mats Wilander.

Graf, who has won all 36 sets she has played in three Grand Slam tournaments this year, had one minor scare against Fernandez. The 16-year-old from Miami, Florida, led 2-0 in the second set and was within a point of taking a 3-0 lead, when she netted an overhead. Graf then ran off six games in a row to finish the victory.

Third-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States also advanced with a 6-2 6-2 victory over 14th-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria.

Shriver will meet Garrison, a



Garrison eliminated Sabatini

semifinalist at Wimbledon in 1985 who beat Sabatini for just the second time in six career meetings. Garrison built a 5-0 lead in the final set and blew five match points before Sabatini sailed a backhand wide.

Earlier, Fairbank, a South African native now living in California, beat Zvereva, the runner-up to Graf at the French Open earlier this month. Fairbank never before had made it past the fourth round of a Grand Slam event.

Fairbank was up 4-0, 40-0 in the second set when Zvereva, 17, suddenly came back, tying it 4-4. "I started having my doubts, I think anyone would. At 40-0 she

was out of the match. At one point I thought she didn't care," Fairbank said. "Then she started going for her shots."

Fairbank then picked up the pace and broke Zvereva to close out the match.

The women's sixth seed, Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, eliminated Barbara Potter of the United States 7-6, 6-4. It is Sukova's fourth consecutive quarterfinal berth at Wimbledon.

Adams, who said last week that she had looked up to Evert's game and attitude as she was learning tennis in the parks of Chicago, never allowed her heroine to get settled in the first

set as she rushed the net at every chance.

The young American put away countless volleys and used a sliced approach shot to prevent Evert from passing her. Adams served for the set at 5-3, 30-0 before Evert broke her on a service return, one of seven breaks in the set. Evert held, then Adams held and broke for the set on her second set point, a netted approach shot by Evert.

But in the second set, Adams' game got reckless, while Evert's timing came together. Evert surged to a 5-1 lead before Adams clawed back to 5-3. But Evert broke the 19-year-old for the set, Adams sending a forehand volley wide on set point.

Results

Pam Shriver (US) beat Katerina Maleeva (Bulgaria) 6-2 6-2; Ros Fairbank (South Africa) beat Natalia Zvereva (Soviet Union) 6-2 6-4; Chris Evert (US) beat Katrina Adams (US) 5-7 6-3 6-0; Helena Sukova (Czechoslovakia) beat Barbara Potter (US) 7-6 (7-4) 6-4; Steffi Graf (West Germany) beat Mary Joe Fernandez (US) 6-2 6-2; Pat Cash (Australia) beat Andrei Olhovskiy (Soviet Union) 6-3 6-3 6-3; Stefan Edberg (Sweden) beat Simon Youl (Australia) 6-2 6-4 6-4; Zina Garrison (US) beat Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina) 6-1 3-6 6-2; Miloslav Mecir (Czechoslovakia) beat Wally Masur (Australia) 4-6 6-2 6-4 6-2; Mats Wilander (Sweden) beat Slobodan Zivojinovic (Yugoslavia) 6-4 7-6 (7-1) 7-5; Pascale Paradis (France) beat Anne Minter (Australia) 6-3 5-7 6-4; Ivan Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat Mark Woodforde (Australia) 7-5 6-7 (6-8) 6-7 (4-7) 7-5 10-8.

Kookaburra III wins third yacht race

LULEA, Sweden, June 27. (Reuters): Australia's Kookaburra III won its third race in the World 12-metre Yachting Championship yesterday but then damaged its keel ahead of the regatta's America's Cup style match-racing semifinals.

Skipper Peter Gilmour cemented his yacht's domination of the light wind regatta on its final fleet-racing day by an unthreatened victory ahead of Australian-Japanese Bengal III and Denmark's Holger Danske II in 10-knot breezes.

Thirty minutes later, when

waiting for the start of the day's second race, Gilmour's yacht struck an underwater object and was unable to enter the race.

"It must have been something quite substantial, a rock or a wreck or something," he said.

The port wing of Kookaburra III's solid lead keel was bent up by 15 degrees.

Repairs
Gilmour, tactician on Kookaburra III when it lost the America's Cup to US skipper Dennis Conner in Fremantle last year, said provisional repairs would be made for this evening's

match races, but that it would take three or four days until the yacht reached full capacity.

"It will create some sort of problem but fortunately match races are more a question of tactics than of speed," said Gilmour, who also has two second places in the northern Baltic waters off this Swedish port.

In the second race of the day home entrant New Sweden, the former South Australia/Entertainment 12, posted its first victory over the five-leg 12 nautical mile course.

New Sweden, which retired

from the preceding race after admitting it was at fault in a windward mark collision with Swedish Yacht Royal Blue, was 31 seconds ahead of Conner's Nordstjernen which sailed its best race of the regatta.

Involved
"After the disaster of that first race I really felt good to win," New Sweden skipper Ole Johansson said.

Two of the semifinals, in which each yacht duels every other yacht once, will pit crews involved in the two latest America's Cup finals.

Worldwide co-operation needed to stop drug use

OTTAWA, June 27. (Reuters): More international unity is needed to combat the use of performance-enhancing drugs in amateur sport, the chairman of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) medical commission said yesterday.

"The door to doping is still wide open," Prince Alexandre de Merode told reporters at the first world conference on anti-doping in sport. "We need to unify and harmonise the efforts being made to deal with drugs in sport."

De Merode said there are still too many differences internationally in the lists of performance-enhancing drugs that are accepted and in sanctions.

For example, he said, in some summer sports an athlete who tests positive for anabolic steroid use is banned from competition for three months in the winter, while an athlete in some other sports found to have used steroids can be banned for life. "That's totally unacceptable, two athletes found using the same drug being dealt with in two different ways," de Merode said. "There must be harmony in the sanctions against drug use."

Some 100 delegates from 20 countries, from both government and various sports bodies, are attending the conference which is being hosted by the IOC and the Canadian government.

De Merode, who is second vice-president of the IOC, said delegates at the three-day conference will develop a policy on anti-doping which will be discussed by the IOC during the summer Olympics at Seoul in September.

The IOC has a list of some 100 drugs which an amateur athlete is banned from using. De Merode said there needs to be more testing at non-Olympic events and more IOC accredited testing laboratories.

"The IOC is all-powerful at the Olympic Games. We apply the regulations and operate the testing labs. But outside the Olympic Games it is a different story," de Merode said.

"Presently there is fairly satisfactory testing of athletes at major championships, but not so much at the national levels."

There are 21 laboratories which are accredited to perform tests for substances banned by the IOC. De Merode said he hopes there will be five more labs opened up by the end of the year.

Still, he said, there are no IOC accredited labs in South America or Africa and only two in Asia.

"We need government help to fight the problem of drugs. The use of drugs is a phenomenon not particular to sport," de Merode said. "Cheating has always existed and it will continue to exist."

Real to appeal against ban on Michel

MADRID, June 27. (Reuters): Spanish League champions Real Madrid will appeal against an European Football Union (UEFA) nine-game ban on star player Michel Gonzalez, the club said today.

"The sanction is very tough," said a spokesman for the club which also lost Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez for three games and was fined 75,000 Swiss francs (\$50,000) by UEFA yesterday.

Behaviour
UEFA's disciplinary committee criticised Michel for his "extremely serious, incorrect behaviour", in abusing Swiss referee Bruno Galler after Real's European Cup semifinal appearance at PSV Eindhoven in April.

The Spanish press criticised the ban which would keep Michel on the sidelines for the whole of next season's campaign, assuming Real reached the final.

The sports newspaper said the punishment was totally out of proportion.

Another newspaper, Diario 16 said Michel had been a



Sanchez (right): banned for three games

scapegoat. But it added that players should not be allowed angry protests.

"A useless and stupid fit of pique will deprive Madrid of its most vital player. Unacceptable," it said.

The Eindhoven match, the second leg of the semifinal, ended in a goalless draw. The Dutch side, who went on to win the cup, had drawn 1-1 in the first leg in Madrid and progressed to the final on the away goals rule.

Dutch fan European hopes of reclaiming Cup

MUNICH, West Germany, June 27. (Reuters): The Netherlands, newly-crowned European champions, have two years to show if their inventive brand of soccer can make them the World Cup winners their predecessors so nearly became twice in the 1970's.

The Dutch national team, out of the picture since the second of their successive World Cup finals in 1978, proved themselves worthy European champions with their handsome 2-0 win over the Soviet Union on Saturday.

The two-week tournament was a celebration of the strengths of European soccer, climaxed by a final between two teams who rose above the rest in tactical imagination and technical virtuosity.

Attacking
The brilliance of the Dutch, the zest and athleticism of the Soviet Union and the attacking promise of beaten semifinalists Italy fanned European hopes of reclaiming World Cup supremacy from the Latin Americans in 1990.

The Dutch face their World Cup campaign without 60-year-old coach Rinus Michels, architect of the great Ajax Amsterdam and national sides graced by Johan Cruyff in the early 1970's. He now moves to the West German League with Bayer Leverkusen.

But his team remain. Nearly all the new champions — ace striker Marco van Basten, European Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit and key central



Gullit puts the cup on his head on arrival at the Eindhoven airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

defenders Ronald Koeman and Frank Rijkaard included — should still be in their prime in 1990 when Argentina defend the World Cup title in Italy.

Van Basten, most prolific European sharpshooter in 1986, was the youngest man on the pitch in Munich's Olympic stadium, and most of his team-

mates are only in their mid-20's. Many of the Soviet team, constructed around the magnificent Dynamo Kiev side won the European Cup Winners Cup in 1986, are nearer 30, though there was room for a less-tried player — the indefatigable and ubiquitous Alexei Mikhailichenko — to blossom.

Hermann Neuberger, national soccer federation president, said he could imagine experiments with new players in four or five

positions. "We then, however, have to risk not qualifying for the 1990 World Cup in Italy," he told the newspaper Welt Am Sonntag.

Meanwhile, the Dutch victory and the team's festive homecoming were the most emotional events in the sporting history of the Netherlands, the national press proclaimed today.

"Never has a sporting victory produced so much pride and happiness in the Dutch people," the mass circulation Telegraaf said.

Up to one million people packed central Amsterdam waving flags and streamers in the national colour orange yesterday as the Dutch team paraded the trophy.

"It was the greatest people's celebration ever," the Algemeen Dagblad said. "The whole country turned orange."

Every newspaper carried large pictures of the celebrations and game on their front pages and unprecedented thick sports sections.

Queen Beatrix awarded royal honours to Michels and Gullit today in a palace reception.

Crowds packed the streets of the Hague and royal palace staff lined up to cheer players on their way to Queen Beatrix's Huis Ten Bosch residence.

Fans elsewhere, many nursing hangovers after 36 hours of non-stop celebrating, watch a live television relay as Junior Sports Minister Dick Dees pinned on the gold-and-enamel medals of the Order of Orange-Nassau.

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